Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Workers laud Cohen; want RP veep De Castro to visit them. **PAGE 2**

EPA allows DPL to continue with clearing of Marpi land. **PAGE 6**

Investor rating agency downgrades NMI

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Moody's Investor Service has downgraded the CNMI's rating on its general obligation bonds from Ba3 to B2, citing several key factors that include the demise of the garment industry.

According to its decision published Monday, the rating downgrade reflects the substantial economic deterioration in the CNMI resulting from changes in the minimum wage laws that drove out the garment industry that had been a dominant sector in the local economy.

"The loss of this entire industry is a substantial blow to an already weak and narrow economic base," Moody said.

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Fitial also wants delay in review of alien workers' status

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is not only asking for a delay by up to November 2010 in the implementation of the federalization law but he also wants to put off any discussions on the future status of long-term guest workers, set by law to occur no later than

ON THE NET
http://resourcescommittee.house.gov

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Government retirees and their supporters attend the Retirement Fund board of trustees meeting yesterday.

INOS ON HIS NEW ROLE:

This is not an unfamiliar territory

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos was beaming as he prepared for an interview with reporters for the first time as the acting chief executive officer of the CNMI yesterday morning, touching on his views about being the first non-elected lieutenant governor, the Retirement Fund lawsuit, federalization, the economy and the swine flu cases in neighboring Japan.

"It's not an unfamiliar territory," said Inos, referring to his new office on Capital Hill. "This was where I grew up."

He said he worked on the second floor of the building now housing the Office of the Governor during the Trust Territory days. He also worked under two previous governors in the areas of policy decision and finances.

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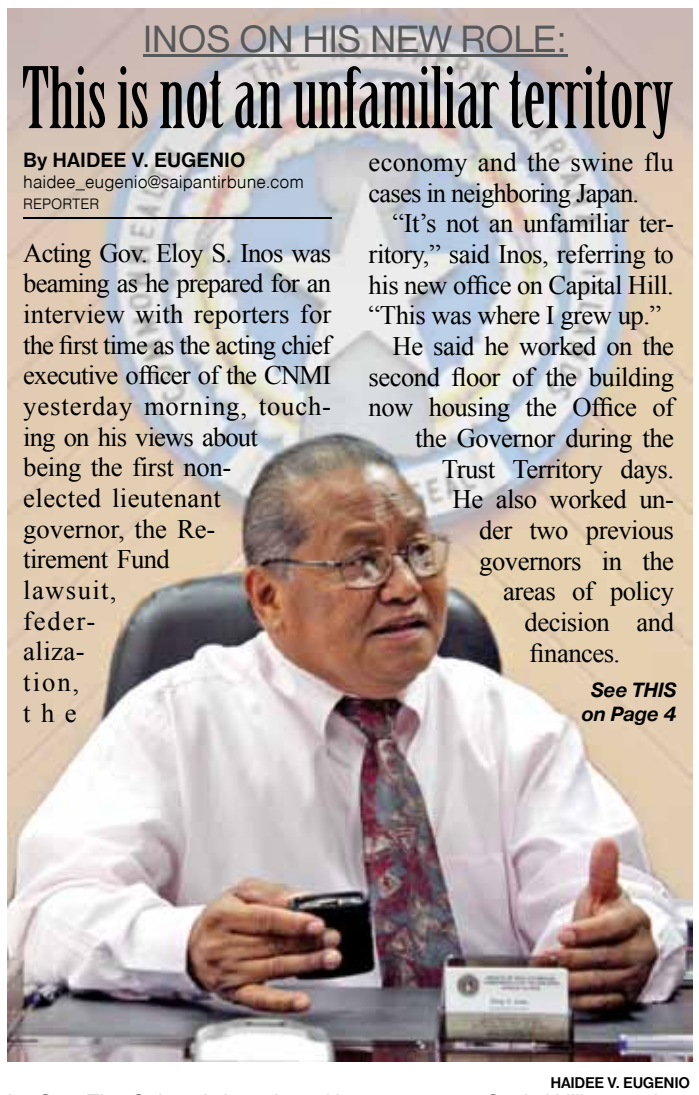

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos is interviewed by reporters on Capital Hill yesterday.

Fund trustees rule out settlement with govt

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Government retirees and their supporters trooped to the Retirement Fund office yesterday to get assurance from the board of trustees that they will not give up the ongoing lawsuit against the CNMI government. The retirees fear the government may pressure the board members to withdraw the lawsuit or vote for an out-of-court settlement in the $215 million debt issue.

Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero assured that they fully intend to go ahead with the lawsuit, discounting the possibility of an out-of-court settlement at this stage.

"Everybody says we must maintain the course of the lawsuit…and we're intending to do that," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He emphasized that there's no way the board will consider withdrawing its case against the government at present when it is expecting results in the very near future.

"We're almost there. I am not saying that we would not negotiate with them because if there's a need to talk about the payment plan [as mandated by the court], we will do that. We're very straightforward, asking to get paid and work out a payment plan. It is not our intention to bankrupt the government," he added.

Stay the course

In the presence of two newly confirmed trustees, the retirees vowed to support the board's actions, provided it stays on course with the lawsuit.

They believe that the fate of the island's pres-

See FUND on Page 4

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the governor's call for another one-year delay to federalization?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of May 19, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

IT&E Sale
The IT&E sale is now final after the FCC granted transfer of all licenses to PTI Pacifica Inc. **Page 15**

Local

Workers laud Cohen; want RP veep De Castro to visit them

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Worker groups in the CNMI lauded David B. Cohen, a former deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, for his support of long-term alien workers in his comments submitted to a congressional hearing on the implementation of federalization in the CNMI.

They said it inspires them to continue with their struggle to ask the federal government to grant them long-term immigration status.

In comments submitted to the U.S. Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, Cohen pushed for flexible federalization, saying this would minimize any harmful effects on the CNMI economy.

The oversight hearing on the implementation of the federalization law was held midnight last night (Saipan time) or May 19 in Washington D.C.

Cohen

De Castro

Cohen was one of several witnesses at the subcommittee hearing.

"More and more people are expressing their support for us. Even our employers are visiting us here for moral and material support. It only shows that there is still hope for us," said the group's designated spokesperson, Yho Villavicencio.

The guest workers are on the final day of their three-day peaceful assembly in front of the TSL Plaza, which houses the offices of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the CNMI.

They were set to hold a prayer vigil about 7pm last night. Invited guests included Rep. Tina Sablan, Glenn Hunter, Ed Propst, Ron Hodges, lawyer Stephen Woodruff and other supporters.

The guest workers reiterated their call for the U.S. Congress to grant them "an improved status as stipulated in Public Law 110-229 Section 6, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to report to the U.S. Congress whether or not it should consider permitting lawfully admitted guest workers lawfully residing in the CNMI to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the U.S."

Itos Feliciano, president of the Human Dignity Movement, said they want someone from the Philippine government, preferably Vice President Noli De Castro, to personally attend to their plight.

"If he can make it to the Middle East, then he can also visit us here on Saipan, which is less than three hours in travel time," Feliciano said,

Villavicencio said all groups would support this.

On April 1, Feliciano wrote a letter to De Castro informing him about the problems and issues that confront overseas Filipino contract workers on Saipan.

A response letter came from De Castro's staff Sheryl M. Dela Cruz on April 17 requesting for further details of the situation.

Earlier, the worker groups expressed their intention to draft a letter to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to help them ask the U.S. government about their concerns.

Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act calls for federal takeover of CNMI immigration by Nov. 28, from an earlier date of June 1, 2009. The federal government granted an extension until November following request for postponement by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The guest workers said there should be no further extensions because this would only prolong their agony and the economic crisis in the CNMI.

"We're not making any false claims because even Mr. Cohen understand what we're fighting for," Villavicencio said.

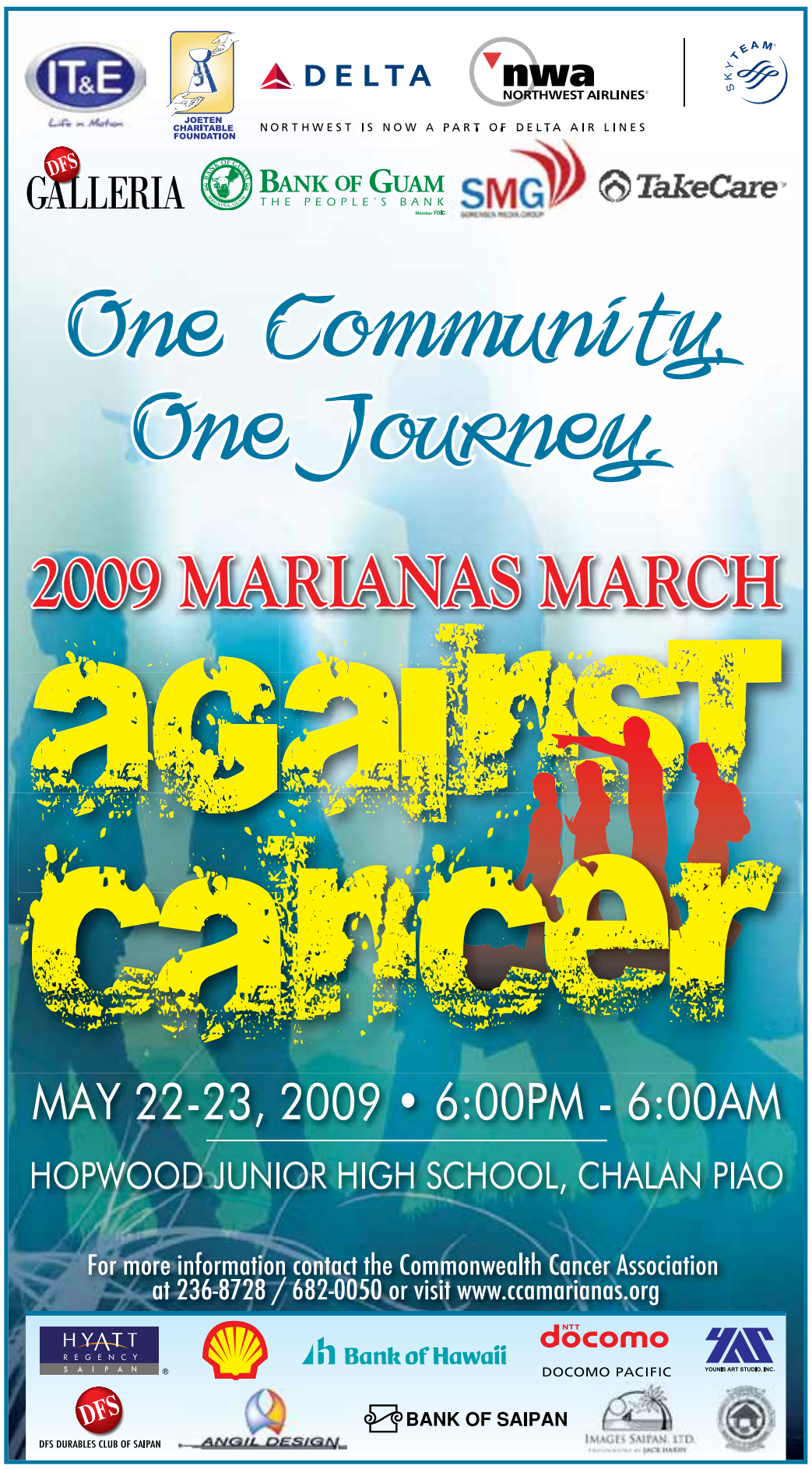
When asked about any initial gains made by the peaceful assembly, Rabby Syed of the United Workers Movement said they were able to send the message clearly to other workers.

"Some of them are disappointed but we are showing them that we can't be disappointed right now. We know that Congress will make its evaluation report before it will decide,' he said.

He said they were also motivated by the significant number of people who signed up at the assembly.

The total number of guests, workers, and others who visited or joined them is expected to reach the 1,000th mark today.

The group estimates that there are about 14,000 guest workers who are still here, including Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Filipinos, Bangladeshis and other ethnicities.



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Fund posts $575 million in unfunded liability

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's unfunded liability currently stands at $575 million, according to comptroller David Demapan.

In a special board meeting yesterday, Demapan reported that the Fund's total liability totals $879 million against net assets of $303 million.

"We arrive at an unfunded liability of $575 million," he told the board.

This means, he said, that for every dollar the Fund owes the beneficiaries, only 34 cents is funded and 66 cents is unfunded.

Meantime, he said the Fund did fairly well in April when it recorded total revenue of $4 million exceeding revenue estimates of $2.6 million by $1.3 million or 50 percent.

Demapan said the collection of $2 million from the central government on its unpaid employer contributions resulted in the 50 percent increase.

Through the seven months ending in April 2009, the total revenue of $15.4 million is behind by 17 percent from revenue estimates of $18.6 million.

"The shortfall of 17 percent is mainly from unpaid employer contributions from the CNMI government and the autonomous agencies," Demapan said.

He said the passage of Public Law 16-32 caused revenue estimates to increase from $31.2 million to $32 million due to the addition of CNMI appropriations for safety annuity and cost of living allowance totaling $811,000.

Board of trustees chair Juan T. Guerrero said yesterday that a significant amount of the Fund's unfunded liability was supposed to be partly addressed by the collectibles from the central government, which he said owes the Fund $215 million.

"When your assets decline, your unfunded liability increases and this is what's happening to the Retirement Fund. The monthly employer contribution was supposed to play a significant role in addressing this unfunded liability," he told Saipan Tribune.

'Investment status'

As of March 2009, 58 percent of the Fund's investment portfolio are in equities while 33 percent are in fixed income.

Demapan said the holdings have declined by 25 percent, with equities and money market investments sustaining the biggest hits due to market contractions.

'Increased cash flow'

Cash flow for the month ending April showed an increase of $546,000 in cash and cash equivalents that are available for operation. Total cash inflows of $6.2 million also exceeded the total cash outflows of $5.7 million.

He disclosed that the statement of cash flows can predict the longevity of the Retirement Fund.

In the seven months of FY 2009, the Fund also recorded a reduction in its operating budget. Its total expenses of $41 million were 3 percent below the budget of $43.2 million—a savings of $1.4 million.

Outage in parts of Susupe on Saturday

To increase power reliability to its consumers, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power outage in parts of Susupe this Saturday, May 23, 2009 from 8:30am through 11:30am. The outage will affect Talaya Avenue, portions of Sulo St. and other customers near the area.

The outage will allow CUC crews to clear the vegetation that is touching primary lines in the Susupe area. This outage will take about three hours and is necessary to ensure the safety of CUC personnel.

CUC requests the cooperation and patience of people driving and residing in these areas while the work is being done. For more information, contact Power Division's Gary Camacho at 235-7025 Ext.164. ***(CUC)***

Guerrero wants to see end of Fund's suit before resigning

Businessman Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero said yesterday he wants to see the conclusion of the Retirement Fund's lawsuit against the Fitial administration before stepping down as board chairman.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune,* Guerrero said he would immediately step down once he is certified as a candidate for governor.

"I need to separate myself [from the Retirement Fund]. I would like to finish the lawsuit as much as possible [before resigning]," Guerrero said.

The Fund sued the CNMI government, Gov. Benigno Fitial, Department of Finance, and then-Finance Secretary Eloy Inos in 2006 over the government's failure to remit employer contributions.

In November 2008, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo granted the Fund's request for a default judgment after the government, through the Attorney General's Office, took nearly two years to answer the complaint.

The sole issue remaining in the case is to determine the amount of damages owed the Fund.

Guerrero said he had tried to submit his petition to file for candidacy because he already has close to 3,000 signatures of supporters.

"We brought it up. We checked with the Election Commission and we were told that we cannot submit until July. That's the law," Guerrero said. "If I will be allowed, I will file my petition and step down, even if the case will continue beyond June 2009. Once I feel that I'm in conflict, I have to step down."

For now, Guerrero said he does not see any conflict because he is not a listed member of the Fund.

"I'm a neutral person. I'm from the private sector. If I feel that I have possible conflict, I consult with counsel. I have already raised the issues and so far, I don't have any conflict," he added.

Guerrero, a former lawmaker, is running for governor as an independent. Rep. James Norita Camacho is his running mate. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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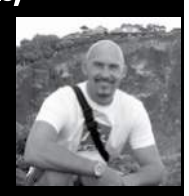

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INVESTOR

From Page

This situation, the report states, was exacerbated by years of operations based on "outdated" budgets, resulting in 13 consecutive years of general fund deficits, and by the global recession that has resulted in a downturn in tourism.

Even the CNMI's exploration of possible bankruptcy for the NMI Retirement Fund—with its unfunded liability amounting to 358 percent of the CNMI's 2007 revenues—was a factor in the lowered rating, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

The CNMI, according to the agency's website, has roughly $109 million in general obligation bonds outstanding, of which $2.6 million is rated by Moody's Investors Service.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho said the rate downgrading did not come as a surprise, given that the CNMI has been experiencing financial difficulties for several years.

"What is important, however, is we have implemented actions to address expenses, increase efforts to collect receivables and sound management practices to put our course for eventual recovery," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He admitted that recovery will not happen overnight and may take a year or two depending on how soon the CNMI can get out of the economic slowdown it is currently experiencing.

'Federalization will harm NMI'

Moody's said the federal takeover of local immigration, set to take effect November this year, creates additional uncertainty in the already beleaguered tourism sector.

The Fitial administration seized on this to bolster its arguments against federalization, saying it is damaging to an already fragile CNMI economy.

"Federalization has harmed and will further harm our economy and tourism industry," said Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos. "And this will result in less economic activity and less revenues to address our government's budget and pension crisis."

Inos points out, for example, that the CNMI government has had to substantially reduce its operating budget below $160 million. "If we had a stronger economy that brought in $200 million in government revenues, as we did before, we could then allocate $40 million or more to the Retirement Fund," said Inos.

Federalization, Inos said, makes CNMI economic growth very difficult and this is supported by the Conway-McPhee report, a First Hawaiian Bank economic report, two GAO reports, and a Moody's Investor Service report.

'Staggering population decline'

Moody's also cited a staggering CNMI population decline that will be exacerbated by restrictive new federal immigration rules that will result in the loss of more foreign workers and less economic activity in the Commonwealth.

Total CNMI population peaked in 2004 at 70,500, of which 57 percent were foreign contract workers. The most recently published population figures from 2007 show a 16 percent decline in total population directly related to the loss of alien workers in the garment industry.

The credit rating agency also noted that the lack of budget and financial reporting has affected the CNMI's status. "The Commonwealth did not adjust its budget to reflect falling revenues," it said.

The CNMI passed its Fiscal Year 2009 budget of $143 million already five months into the fiscal year.

'Large unfunded pension liability'

Since 2007 when the CNMI pension trust fund had an accrued unfunded liability of roughly $570 million and a funded ratio of less than 50 percent, liabilities have since grown after the CNMI stopped making employer contributions to the Retirement Fund.

The ongoing court battle between the Fund and the central government, Moody's said, raises more areas for clarification.

"It is unclear whether CNMI qualifies as a municipality under Chapter 9 of the federal bankruptcy law as it applies to municipalities. However, even the exploration of bankruptcy rights is disturbing given the very weak economy and falling revenues. It is unknown, at this time, what role the federal government, if any, would take to stabilize the Commonwealth," Moody's stated.

The CNMI was last rated in December 2003 when the rating of Ba2 with a stable outlook was assigned to the Commonwealth's general obligation bonds series 2003A.

FITIAL

From Page

May 2010.

Fitial was one of nine witnesses who testified at the U.S. Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife's oversight hearing on the implementation of Public Law 110-229 on Tuesday at 10am in Washington, D.C. (Wednesday midnight on Saipan).

As stated in an advanced copy of his 13-page testimony, Fitial said a previous proposal affording long-term status to certain foreign workers lawfully in the CNMI was a very divisive one, he said, that's why committees in both Houses elected to strike this provision from the bills that eventually became Public Law 110-229.

"The Commonwealth suggests that future consideration of this issue be deferred until the report required under the law is submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior," said Fitial. "By that time, the overall review of immigration policy promised by President Obama may well be underway. Such a review certainly will be addressing the claims of large groups of aliens in the United States for an improved status and it is in that context that we believe the Commonwealth's situation should be evaluated."

The governor's position on federalization is not shared by everyone in the cash-strapped CNMI, including government officials, businesses and workers.

At least six groups of foreign workers in the CNMI have been holding a peaceful assembly in front of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Center on Saipan since Monday to appeal to the Subcommittee to support their quest for an improved immigration status under federal laws.

Witness list

Besides Fitial, other witnesses on panel 1 were Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho and Guam Vice Speaker Benjamin F. Cruz.

Panel 2 of witnesses included Dr. David Gootnick, director of the Government Accountability Office's International Affairs Trade; Nikolao Pula, acting deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs; and Richard C. Barth, acting principal deputy assistant secretary for policy at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The subcommittee, chaired by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, also heard from witnesses on panel 3, including DFS Pacific Division director Jim Beighley; David Cohen, a former deputy assistant secretary for Interior's Office of Insular Affairs; and Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski.

The hearing was webcast live on the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources' website at http://resourcescommittee.house.gov.

'Disappointing'

Fitial asked for up to a year of delay in the implementation of P.L. 110-229 from Nov. 28, 2009, or until Chinese and Russian tourists are included in the visa waiver program, citing their economic contributions to the CNMI.

The original implementation date of June 1 was already pushed back by 180 days, the maximum allowed by law.

Fitial said the Department of Homeland Security's initial efforts have not been reassuring, and its "final" regulations regarding a joint visa waiver program for Guam and the CNMI were "disappointing."

"They reflected a serious disregard for the economic impact of the proposed regulations on the Commonwealth's visitor industry," said the governor, who was accompanied in Washington, D.C. by his special counsel, Howard Willens.

Fitial added that DHS' action and statements over the past few months have unnecessarily added to the community's concerns.

"The department appears to be delaying its issuance of other critical regulations relating to investor visas and the future employment of foreign workers in the Commonwealth. Its statements regarding enforcement policies under federalization reveal an insistence on applying standard procedures without regard for the Commonwealth's unique history or the human costs involved," he said.

Fitial added that DHS has refused to hire even one employee from the CNMI Division of Immigration.

"I am asking this Subcommittee to assist the Commonwealth by examining critically the department's implementation policies and procedures to date. If an extension of the effective date of the law is required to ensure that the intent of the law is implemented fully and competently, then I urge the Subcommittee to provide such relief," he said.

Not ready

The governor said he is concerned that DHS will not be ready to enforce Public Law 110-229 on Nov. 28, 2009.

He said any shortcomings in DHS' assumption of its new responsibilities in the CNMI will present a serious national security risk to the people of the CNMI and the United States.

"Our concern is the department's readiness to protect the borders of the Commonwealth as the law's current effective date is based in part on the limited information available about the department's funding and staffing plans for the Commonwealth," he said.

He cited DHS' calculation that implementation of the federalization law in the CNMI for the last four months of Fiscal Year 2009 and all of Fiscal Year 2010 would cost about $97 million.

H visa cap

The governor also called on DHS' prompt publication of draft regulations relating to investor visas and foreign worker permits.

Fitial said he's aware that Guam's representatives may be seeking a clarification and extension of the exemption for the national caps relating to H visas in light of the current schedule with respect to the military buildup in the Marianas.

"The Commonwealth supports any modification to the law desired by Guam in order to ensure that it has the workforce believed necessary to implement the buildup in an economically responsible manner," he said.

FUND

From Page

ent and future retirees now lies in the hands of individual board trustees and their decision making process.

"Please don't give up this important court matter because this is something we're truly holding on," retiree Joe Palacios told the board, adding that setting the right direction for the Fund would have a big impact on future retirees on the islands.

Former Board of Regent Agnes McPhetres, also a retiree, said they were very impressed with how the Fund has proven its case throughout the court proceedings.

"What we're preventing from happening is a disaster in the future. We're very happy, seeing how the Retirement Fund lawyers work for the people. We're just hoping this process will continue because we're counting on you trustees," she said.

For retiree Ruth Tighe, the idea of a settlement and negotiation should not be an "option" for the Fund board. She echoed her peers' pleas to let the court decide the matter.

For retiree Donna Cruz, failure of the board to seek payment from the central government would also mean a loss of several opportunities and privileges.

"If we fail, I don't think an insurance company will take any one of us," said Gloria Hunter.

The Fitial administration earlier expressed its plan to seek the intervention of the federal court, which the chairman of the board claims is unnecessary at this point.

"I don't know why we need to mediate now? The court is almost finish with the case and let's finish it here," he said, adding that the Fund has been trying to work with the government to prevent this from happening. However, these efforts have been neglected in the past.

Guerrero is optimistic about a positive result in the court battle.

The $215 million debt being claimed by the Fund is higher than the CNMI government budget, which is only $143 million.

THIS

From Page

Inos, who has been tasked to oversee all government finances, said he and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial agreed to share responsibilities.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish in completing the term of the lieutenant governor, Inos said it is in helping address Retirement Fund issues. He said invigorating the economy is also a priority.

But he hopes he will be given again an opportunity to work for and serve the people in the next four years.

Fitial earlier picked Inos to be his running mate in his re-election bid in November.

"The Retirement Fund can basically drain the resources of the government," said Inos, adding that the government's arrears in employer contribution of over $200 million is higher than the administration's proposed fiscal year 2010 budget of $162.82 million.

Just like Fitial, Inos said he hopes the parties to the lawsuit, along with the Legislature, will find an amicable solution to the Retirement Fund issues.

The administration wants the ongoing court proceedings to be suspended, a step that does not fare well with the Retirement Fund board of trustees chaired by Juan T. Guerrero, who is running for governor.

When asked by a reporter whether he will ask Guerrero to step down, Inos said this is something for Guerrero to decide.

"We're not forcing him to resign," said Inos, as long as Guerrero separates his political ambition from his duties as chairman of the Fund board.

As to the H1N1 flu cases in neighboring Japan, Inos said the CNMI government continues to communicate with proper agencies on the best measures to adopt to protect the local population and tourists.

He is optimistic that the military buildup in Guam "will bring about tangible benefits to the CNMI," saying Guam cannot sustain the collateral needs of the economy including relaxation and entertainment.

The father of five said the CNMI has received two approvals for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, although cash has not been actually received. He said the CNMI has been putting in place the proper accounting procedures, internal audit process, as well as opening separate bank accounts for the funds to properly dispose of and account for each dollar received.

And since Monday, Inos has signed two proclamations, but has not yet approved or rejected a bill presented on his desk.

Inos, 59, took over as acting governor when Fitial left Sunday for Washington, D.C. to testify at a congressional oversight hearing on the implementation of Public Law 10-229—the federalization law.

Fitial nominated Inos to the post when former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez resigned from his post after he was found guilty of corruption by a federal jury.

The Senate confirmed his nomination on May 1. That same day, he was sworn into office as the first non-elected lieutenant governor in the CNMI.

Before this, he was on Fitial's Cabinet as Finance Secretary.

US govt offers its notebook for court inspection

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government has offered to the federal court for inspection its notebook used by the prosecution during the jury selection in the trial of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos.

In the U.S. government's motion for "in camera" inspection, assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley said the notebook would be submitted in response to arguments and allegations that were levied against the U.S. government.

A legal proceeding is "in camera" when a hearing is held before the judge in his or her private chambers or when the public is excluded from the courtroom.

Villagomez and the Santos couple have claimed that the U.S. government engaged in an organized and intentional effort to seed the jury with relatives of witnesses.

"There was no such effort. The notebook would be provided so the court may decide for itself whether there is any truth to the defendants' allegations," O'Malley said.

The prosecutor explained that the notebook is a compilation of the information received by the U.S. government's jury consultants; it has not been changed or altered since being used at trial.

He said the U.S. government wishes to submit the notebook to put to rest "a line of argument that might otherwise waste the time and resources" of both the court and the defendants.

Last April 24, the federal jury returned guilty verdict against Villagomez and the Santos couple.

On May 1, the defendants filed several motions, including motions for a judgment of acquittal or new trial based on allegations that the defense had learned after the verdict that some of the witnesses were related to some of the jurors.

Autopsy done on murdered businessman

Guam's chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola conducted an autopsy Monday night on a Korean businessman who was killed by an unidentified person or persons inside his store in Tanapag.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David said yesterday that Espinola completed the autopsy at the Commonwealth Health Center.

David said he doesn't have any information yet regarding Espinola's findings relating to the cause of the victim's death as well as the type of injuries.

The DPS spokesman said the autopsy results will be released later to the media.

David also confirmed yesterday that robbery was a factor to the killing.

"As for what's stolen, I don't have that information yet," he said.

David said the detectives did not provide him any information about any suspects.

"As for now everything is on hold until such time they [detectives] conclude their investigation," David said.

As to the victim's identity, he said they are still working with the Korean Consulate in Guam, which is trying to notify the victim's next of kin about the death.

The 65-year-old businessman was found by customers lying behind the cashier's counter inside the New Star Market along Tanapag Avenue in Tanapag Sunday night. Investigators classified the case as homicide/murder. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

DPH says it is doing its best to prevent entry of H1N1

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health said it would increase its surveillance to address the problem of H1N1 flu virus, including tighter screening procedures at airports to prevent its entry into the CNMI.

This is in reaction to the large number of patients in Japan who had tested positive for the virus.

The DPH said it is prepared to prevent the entry of patients with the virus.

However, DPH said a thermal scanner would not be part of the health screening procedures. A thermal scanner is a machine being used in other countries to determine the body temperature of departing and arriving passengers.

Pedro T. Untalan, CNMI DPH Deputy Secretary for Hospital Administration, said that since this is also the influenza season, putting up gadgets like a thermal scanners at the airport is not a guarantee.

Untalan said that Japan should have the best way to prevent the exit of the virus.

DPH advises the public to follow basic hygiene practices "because it is the best way to prevent us from getting sick."

"We're doing the best we can. The public should be aware of the health update and follow guidelines like staying at home when they feel sick," he said.

Refusing entry of passengers is not part of the plan because "this is not as virulent but a combination of the influenza season."

The surveillance will include giving out information flyers to passengers by volunteers from the Emergency Operations Center that had been activated to monitor flu cases in the CNMI since last month.

DPH sentinel sites were also alerted to heighten their surveillance efforts. The sentinel sites include all CHC Clinics, Marianas Medical Center, Medical Associates of the Pacific, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center.

Patients seen at sentinel sites that meet the clinical case definition for influenza-like illness are tested with the rapid flu test. All tests, regardless of the results, are sent to a laboratory in San Antonio, Texas for further testing.

Since Monday, the CNMI has been on alert level Phase 5, as declared by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

DPH said there are no confirmed H1N1 cases yet in the CNMI.

In Japan, the government there reported a surge in the number of confirmed H1N1 flu cases as the WHO warned that the disease was likely to continue its rapid spread across the world.

Infections were confirmed in the port city of Kobe and nearby Osaka, which is the country's second-biggest urban area.

The CNMI draws its biggest number of foreign visitors from Japan.

EPA allows DPL to continue with clearing of Marpi land

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowing the Department of Public Lands, through its contractor Ampro, to continue land clearing in Marpi, citing a May 15 letter stating that the Coastal Resources Management does not require DPL to obtain a permit for the project.

Rep. Tina Sablan earlier asked EPA to suspend the Marpi project until such time that the regulatory issues raised by the project have been properly evaluated by the U.S. EPA, as well as by the local government, and resolved.

Yesterday, the U.S. EPA held a conference call with DPL, CRM and the Division of Environmental Quality.

"The purpose of the call was to better understand the issues surrounding the CRM permit requirements," Pankaj Arora of the U.S. EPA Brownfields Program told Sablan in e-mail.

Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Rep. Ray Tebuteb on Monday said CRM and DEQ may have violated the very same environmental laws, regulations and procedures they are mandated to enforce when they allowed clearing of 62 hectares of public lands in Marpi without a major siting permit.

Arora's letter said based on the May 15, 2009 letter from CRM director Dr. Jon Joyner to DPL secretary John Del Rosario, "it appears that CRM is not requiring DPL to obtain a permit for this project."

"Hence, U.S. EPA is allowing DPL to continue with the work. If CRM changes its permit requirements for this project, then U.S. EPA will revisit the issue and take appropriate actions," Arora told Sablan.

Sablan earlier asked whether she could join the conference call, but this was not allowed.

Some 62 hectares of land in Marpi are being cleared of unexploded World War II ordnance, using U.S. EPA Brownfields funding granted to DPL.

Jon Scott, project manager of Ampro, DPL's contractor for the land clearing, told members of the House Committee on Natural Resources that 70 percent of land clearing has been done and 40 percent of unexploded ordnance has been removed as of this week.

Besides the lack of major siting permit, members of the community have also raised concern about the earlier proposed end use for the area, which is for homestead development. DPL has repeatedly said there's no plan to develop the area into homesteads cause of lack of infrastructure such as water, power and sewer.

Labor wants new changes to employment regulations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor is again proposing another set of amendments to the current employment rules and regulations.

Labor is seeking public comments in its notice of proposed rules and regulations filed before the Commonwealth Registrar's Office.

According to Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas, the proposed revisions are intended to provide additional opportunities for the employment of U.S. citizens and to advance the phase-out of the moratorium.

In Labor's public notice, San Nicolas said the proposed amendments are also intended to suspend the provisions for periodic exit until the uncertainties of the federalization law are resolved, and to decrease the department's paperwork burdens and make other administrative changes.

According to Labor, the proposed amendments are:

■ To broaden the requirement to post job vacancy announcements on the department's website so that job opportunities are made known within the community and to increase the requirements for an exemption from the workforce participation requirement of 20 percent U.S. citizens in order to promote the employment of U.S. citizens;

■ To advance the phase-out of the moratorium to July 1, 2009 in order to increase flexibility for local businesses under the current adverse economic circumstances and to suspend the provisions for periodic exit until the uncertainties of the federalization law are resolved so that local businesses are not faced with potentially conflicting requirements;

■ To simplify the provisions for part-time employment of foreign national workers in order to decrease the paperwork burdens on local employers;

■ To simplify the regulations governing deductions from wages in light of minimum wage hikes;

■ To eliminate or simplify certain paperwork burdens on the department and to make minor adjustments in fees;

■ To provide guidelines for judicial review of final agency actions.

Comments are due within 30 days from the date of the publication of the notice.

Last October, Labor also filed proposed amendments to the employment rules and regulations.

CNMI starts Memorial Week observance

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Veterans of Foreign Wars in the CNMI as well as those in active duty began yesterday their annual observance of Memorial Week in honor of the sacrifices of their fallen comrades.

The Memorial Week is from May 19-25, with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signing the proclamation at the Governor's Office conference room yesterday.

Joining him during the signing ceremony was Senate President Pete Reyes, himself a Vietnam War veteran. Two of the 70 members of the Echo Company stationed in Kuwait who are here for R&R were also in attendance, Staff Sgt. Francisco Ada and Sgt. Royal Kelby.

The proclamation states that by honoring soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guard men, it is a way of renewing the commitment to uphold the democratic ideals they fought for.

In observance of this special week, the people of the CNMI are paying tribute to fallen veterans for their unselfish, dedicated service to the nation.

The Memorial Week will culminate on Memorial Day, May 25, with formal ceremonies to be held at the CNMI Veterans Ceremony in Marpi.

Rear Admiral William D. French, commander of the U.S. Naval Forces in the Marianas, will be the keynote speaker.

French, along with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, military service members and veterans, will lead the laying of wreaths.

On that day, a prayer for peace throughout the world will be offered to remember what was gained and what was lost during times of war.

"From the bravery of the men at the Valley Forge, to the daring of Normandy, the courage of Iwo Jima and the steady resolve in Afghanistan and Iraq, our men and women in uniform have won for us every hour that we live in freedom," the proclamation states. "As we honor those who have served and have been lost, we better understand the meaning of patriotism and citizenship, and we pledge that their sacrifices will not be in vain."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos is joined by members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, lawmakers, soldiers, and other veterans at the Governor's Office yesterday for the proclamation signing declaring May 19-25 as Memorial Week.

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House OKs bill transferring funds to DPH, Immigration

The House of Representatives yesterday passed on an 18-0 vote a bill clarifying which outside general fund sources the Department of Public Health qualified operational expenses are to be transferred to.

House Bill 16-24 allows up to $3.5 million to be used for operational expenses of the Department of Public Health to supplement its budget for operations.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Ray N. Yumul, also allows up to $400,000 to be used to cover the personnel expenses of the Division of Immigration up to Sept. 30, 2009.

The House also rejected amendments to the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008 which was passed by the Senate on April 15. Members, however, passed a motion for a conference committee.

In yesterday's session, the House debated on a bill imposing a criminal penalty against any government official for his failure to remit employer contribution to the Retirement Fund.

The members referred House Bill 16-236 to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations chaired by Rep. Rosemond Santos.

Under Rep. Ray N. Yumul's bill, any person who fails to pay or remit contributions to the Fund is guilty of misdemeanor, and upon conviction may be fined not more than $2,000 and imprisoned for not more than a year. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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iCONNECT

Bartenders to showcase talents at Taste

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Photo shows the contestants and organizers of next Saturday's Bartender Cocktail Competition "Burnett's Vodka Challenge," a side event of the 2009 Taste of the Marianas Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park.

Bartenders from various hotels and restaurants will be showcasing their skills in the Bartender Cocktail Competition this Saturday at the 2009 Taste of the Marianas Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park.

The competition, dubbed "Burnett's Vodka Challenge," will start at 7pm.

Judging criteria include showmanship (35 percent), taste (30 percent), originality (20 percent), audience impact (10 percent), and neatness (5 percent).

The champion will receive $75 cash, trophy and cellular phone. The first runner-up will get $50 and a trophy; second runner-up, $25 and trophy; and third runner-up, trophy.

All winners will also receive gifts from DFS Galleria and certificates and medals.

There will also be a special award for the Best in Showmanship and Taste, who will earn $25 and gifts from DFS.

A trophy plus gifts from DFS will also be given for the best props and costume.

The participating bartenders and their companies are Ramil Eustaquio (Wonderful Bar), Jojo Solmarin (Moby Dick Restaurant), Emil Gammad and Jovel San Juan (Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino), Glen Aquino (Aqua Resort Club), Bernardine Aquino and Amapola Castro (Hyatt Regency Saipan), Rommel Usi and Willie Garon (Fiesta Resort & Spa), Rio Therese and Ji-hyun Kang (Pacific Island Club), Kenneth Cruzat (Country House Restaurant), Marlon Pineda (Saipan World Resort) and Michael Lim (Country Bar).

The two contestants in the Battle of Champions are Jay Torres of Aqua Resort Club and Jay Santos of The Flair.

Torres is the current champion in the Bar Wars Bartenders Cocktail Competition as well as the champion in the Taste of the Marianas 2009 Bartenders Cocktail Competition "Malibu Coconut Rum Challenge."

Santos, on the other hand, won the 2008 Taste of the Marianas showmanship award en route to becoming the champion last year in the "Malibu Coconut Rum Challenge.

This year's sponsors include the Marianas Visitors Authority, MARPAC Burnett's Vodka, Duty Free Shoppers, IT&E, Coca Cola, Tinian Dynasty and Casino, and Jam-V Fashion Design.

American Red Cross

Attention all Donors and Volunteers

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold its annual meeting this Thursday May 21st from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Chapter office on Airport Road.

All volunteers, donors, instructors and other interested in the Red Cross are welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact the chapter office at 234-3459.

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

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Interested candidates must complete an IT&E application and submit it, along with the other required documents, to the IT&E Human Resource Office located at the IT&E Susupe Headquarters by Friday, May 22, 2009, 5:00 p.m. Late applications will not be accepted. For questions, please call 234-6600.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 20, 1999

Air Nauru seeks OK to fly to Saipan

In a move to fast track the establishment of a regional airline, an official of the Republic of Palau has asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and key members of the CNMI Legislature to begin talks immediately on the proposal of Air Nauru to extend its service to Saipan, Palau and Manila. Sen. Santos Olikong, chair of the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Affairs of Palau National Congress, put forward the proposal to hold discussions in a letter sent recently to the governor, Senate President Paul A. Manglona and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente.

Teno slams Stayman

Upset over the failure of the Office of Insular Affairs to inform the island government regarding the appointment of Washington Rep. Juan N. Babauta as the islands' representative to the renegotiation of the Compact deal with FAS, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday chided OIA Director Allen P. Stayman for bypassing the CNMI people. The outgoing OIA official has recently named Babauta as the Commonwealth representative to the October talks between the United States and the Freely Associated States, but the governor said it was done without consultation. "I was never informed. I was not consulted. Maybe Mr. Stayman feels he has full responsibility and authority over the CNMI," a visibly disappointed Tenorio said in an interview.

MAY 20, 2000

Wilson pleads guilty in BoS case

Texas-based businessman Michael T. Wilson owned up Friday to his part in a fraud case that has spun far-reaching ramifications—from the sudden Bank of Saipan closure, to a series of lawsuits, not to mention Commonwealth-wide confusion. Wilson, 47, entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Court Chief Judge Alex R. Munson to charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, engaging in monetary transactions in criminally-derived property, securities fraud and false statements made to federal agents. As Wilson admitted guilt to each of the charges, the judge made him explain, in his own words, the means by which he committed the crimes.

BoS seeks Fennell's removal

The Bank of Saipan has petitioned the Superior Court for Randall T. Fennell's immediate removal as temporary receiver of the embattled banking institution in fear of losing a majority of its employees, who have vowed to quit their posts if Fennell continues under such capacity. The bank's corporate counsels filed the emergency motion late Friday in light of what they termed as "the continued dissipation of Bank resources and goodwill that has occurred and will occur, if Mr. Fennell continues as temporary receiver." Last week, a group of disgruntled BoS employees, for the first time, publicly aired out their grievances against the receiver, saying that since the bank went under receivership, most of them were released without any clear message or directive as to their employment status.

MAY 20, 2003

House supports purchase of Washington Rep's residence

The House of Representatives sees the practicality in the CNMI owning a residence for its Representative in Washington D.C., as opposed to merely renting a place like what the Commonwealth has been doing. By adopting House Joint Resolution 13-31 Monday, legislators agreed to the request made by Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio to allow his office to purchase a residence using the funds earmarked for the Resident Rep.'s housing expenses. House members acknowledged that for the last 25 years, the Commonwealth has expended over $800,000 for the housing needs of its Washington representatives.

Wright: OPA knew about our standards

Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright said the Office of the Public Auditor knew about the new accreditation standards when it investigated the college's reorganization last year. "OPA knew about these standards. We didn't hide anything," said Wright, adding that these new standards are actually now being implemented by colleges. "We're doing it now. This is based on our communication with WASC. They know that we're implementing the rules now," said Wright. WASC officially adopted the new standards in June 2002. Earlier, a Saipan lawmaker filed a complaint with the WASC, saying the NMC may have submitted a wrong set of accreditation standards to the OPA last year.

PIC donates $10,000 to NMC Foundation

Underscoring its support of providing a quality education for local students, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan donated $10,000 to the Northern Marianas College Foundation last Friday.

"The donation is made to support the college's efforts to enhance its program offerings and services," said Kieran Daly, general manager of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. "It is extremely important that CNMI students have easy access to a high quality education locally so that they can become productive members of this community."

The donation was also presented in support of the upcoming 7th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament, which is organized by the NMC Foundation. The tournament, the organization's signature event, aims to raise critical funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"We were pleasantly surprised when we learned of the sizable donation from the Pacific Islands Club," said Ben Babauta, president of the NMC Foundation. "We are truly grateful for their commitment to advancing higher education in the CNMI."

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's lone postsecondary educational institution. The organization is composed of individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals.

"We are deeply appreciative of PIC's donation," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "Their contribution will make a significant impact on the college."

Saipan Laolao will play host to the 7th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament, scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2009. For sponsorship information or to register to play, contact 234-5498 extension 1050. ***(NMC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
PIC managers present a $10,000 check to NMC officials at the resort's lobby. From left, NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, PIC general manager Kieran Daly, PIC training manager Evan Hunsberger, NMC Foundation member Yoichi Matsumura, and PIC executive assistant to the GM Vicky Benavente.

Deluxe dining at Monte Vista

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Great food, excellent service, and a million-dollar view is what guests can expect from Monte Vista Restaurant and Steak House on Navy Hill.

WHAT'S COOKING?

An opulent dining experience at reasonable prices awaits diners at the Monte Vista Steak House Restaurant.

Nestled on the slopes of Navy Hill, Monte Vista offers a breathtaking view of the Saipan lagoon and the CNMI's signature hotspot, Managaha Island.

However, the former Marianas Resort's million-dollar vista is not the only reason tourists and locals alike have been driving up Navy Hill for lunch and dinner.

Manager Ju Yeon Lee said Monte Vista offers an eclectic selection of food, ranging from American, Italian, and Korean, to a fusion of Japanese and local cuisine.

Food is carefully prepared by the skilled hands and expert palates of their four cooks.

She said almost everything Monte Vista serves is made from scratch and majority of their produce are organically grown at their farm, which is adjacent to the property.

CONTACT INFO
Monte Vista, 322-3324

Service is something Lee is also proud of as Monte Vista's waitstaff are always at their guests' beck and call.

Monte Vista may scream five-star dining, but Lee assures that the restaurant's price range is affordable even during these tough economic times.

For instance, Monte Vista's daily lunch specials only cost $9.99 and this month the restaurant is serving sure-fire hits like Seafood Marinara Pasta, Hamburger & Pork Cutlet Combo, Spaghetti Carbonara, and BBQ Lunch Set.

The entrees come with either garlic toast or French fries. It also comes with complimentary soup and iced tea as well as all-you-can eat salad and dessert.

Diners looking for other entrees can also order from Monte Vista's a la carte menu.

Monte Vista is open for lunch from 11am to 2pm and seats around 70 guests comfortably.

Sunset barbecue

Monte Vista is also looking to capture the dinner market with its Sunset BBQ offering.

Lee said what makes the restaurant's Sunset BBQ different from others is that diners can choose from packaged meals and cook them the way they want to.

The set meals, depending on the package, are made up of a salad, rice, soup, barbecued baby ribs, lobster tail, shrimp, calamari, chicken wings, sausages, mussels, and dessert of seasonal fruits.

The restaurant's barbecue area can seat up to 200 guests and is open for dinner from 6pm to 10pm.

For lunch and dinner reservations at Monte Vista, call 322-3324. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

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Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	020E	5/9 Sat	5/7 Thu	5/7 Thu	5/5 Tue	5/2 Sat	5/15 Fri	5/11 Mon	5/10 Sun	5/3 Sun	5/3 Sun	5/11 Mon	5/15 Fri	5/17 Sun	5/19 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	033E	5/16 Sat	5/14 Thu	5/14 Thu	5/12 Tue	5/9 Sat	5/22 Fri	5/18 Mon	5/17 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/18 Mon	5/22 Fri	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue
MELL SENOKO	022E	5/23 Sat	5/21 Thu	5/21 Thu	5/19 Tue	5/16 Sat	5/29 Fri	5/25 Mon	5/24 Sun	5/17 Sun	5/17 Sun	5/25 Mon	5/29 Fri	5/31 Sun	6/2 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	021E	5/30 Sat	5/28 Thu	5/28 Thu	5/26 Tue	5/23 Sat	6/5 Fri	6/1 Mon	5/31 Sun	5/24 Sun	5/24 Sun	6/1 Mon	6/5 Fri	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	034E	6/6 Sat	6/4 Thu	6/4 Thu	6/2 Tue	5/30 Sat	6/12 Fri	6/8 Mon	6/7 Sun	5/31 Sun	5/31 Sun	6/8 Mon	6/12 Fri	6/14 Sun	6/16 Tue
MELL SENOKO	023E	6/13 Sat	6/11 Thu	6/11 Thu	6/9 Tue	6/6 Sat	6/19 Fri	6/15 Mon	6/14 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/15 Mon	6/19 Fri	6/21 Sun	6/23 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	020E	5/23 Sat	5/24 Sun	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue	5/28 Thu	5/30 Sat	5/31 Sun	6/2 Tue	6/5 Fri	6/6 Sat	6/11 Thu	6/30 Tue	6/28 Sun	6/10 Wed
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MELL SENOKO	022E	6/6 Sat	6/7 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue	6/11 Thu	6/13 Sat	6/14 Sun	6/16 Tue	6/19 Fri	6/20 Sat	6/25 Thu	7/14 Tue	7/12 Sun	6/24 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	021E	6/13 Sat	6/14 Sun	6/14 Sun	SKIP	6/18 Thu	6/20 Sat	6/21 Sun	6/23 Tue	6/26 Fri	6/27 Sat	7/2 Thu	7/21 Tue	7/19 Sun	7/1 Wed
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MELL SENOKO	023E	6/27 Sat	6/28 Sun	6/28 Sun	SKIP	7/2 Thu	7/4 Sat	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue	7/10 Fri	7/11 Sat	7/16 Thu	8/4 Tue	8/2 Sun	7/15 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Cold reality

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar ruffled more than a few feathers this month when he let stand a Bush administration decision to prohibit the use of the Endangered Species Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. It was the right call when it was made in 2008, and it is the right call now. Tackling climate change—and all the implications that has for the economy—should be dealt with by the people's representatives in Congress, not through a 36-year-old law not designed for such a complex task. Just how complex will be on full display Monday when the House begins its scheduled debate on the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

Inaction by the Bush administration led environmental groups to find backdoor ways to force it to deal with climate change. When then-Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne listed the polar bear as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act because global warming was melting its Arctic Sea ice habitat, activists geared up to use the decision to challenge high-carbon-emitting projects across the country. But Mr. Kempthorne wisely limited the law's reach by prohibiting "global processes" from triggering further action to protect a listed species' habitat.

That both the Bush and Obama administrations have had to contort Interior Department policies to ensure that it doesn't get dragged into setting U.S. climate policy shows why action on Capitol Hill is vital. The American Clean Energy and Security Act would seek to slash 2005 greenhouse gas emission levels 83 percent by 2050 through a cap-and-trade system in which government would set a declining limit on the amount of carbon dioxide that could be emitted and would issue allowances to emitting companies that could buy and sell those rights.

Shaping the bill, sponsored by Reps. Henry A. Waxman, D-Calif. and Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., was no easy exercise. Regional concerns, particularly those of members from coal-producing areas such as Rep. Rick Boucher, D-Va., forced a number of compromises that have left all sides grumbling. Initially, 85 percent of the carbon trade allowances would be given away. This is a far cry from the 100 percent auction position espoused by President Obama during the campaign. But the committee staff believes that this is necessary to ease the transition to a carbon-constrained economy for industries and states and to help limit direct consumer rate increases. By 2030, all the pollution permits would be auctioned.

The work on this bill is far from done, and the debate on the House floor promises to be spirited, as it should be. We continue to hope that Congress will consider a simpler carbon tax rebated to all taxpayers or less bureaucratic versions of cap-and-trade, such as that proposed by Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md.. But it's encouraging that lawmakers are undertaking to meet the challenges of climate change. The responsibility is theirs, not that of unelected bureaucrats using laws far beyond their intended purpose.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

As bad as things may seem…

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

As I make my way through life, I am always intrigued by how ideas for businesses or ideas for marketing strategies are generated.

I am a firm believer in the supportive nature of the universe and that once a goal is firmly fixed in your mind, the means for its realization are mobilized to come to you. Those means can come in many forms, and the key to your success may lie in simply being open to the many, seemingly random and coincidental ways the tools and techniques for success are communicated to you.

In my own experience, I get ideas for my column, for new websites, for businesses, and for marketing strategies from the books I read, the movies I see, the people I meet, the conversations I engage in, the dreams I have, the events I attend, the headlines I hear, and the questions I am asked, as well as any number of seemingly unrelated occurrences. I've come to expect and enjoy that life is a puzzle to be solved; business is a code to be cracked. Marketing is a maze to be mastered, and every point of contact with the world offers me the pieces to the puzzle.

This week's puzzle pieces are brought to you by the movie *Star Trek*, the documentary *Zeitgeist*, the books *The Five Faces of* Genius by Annette Moser-Wellman, and *Think Like Chinese* by Zhang Haihua and Geoff Baker, The Kybalion, the students at Hopwood Elementary's Career Day, swine flu and General Motors.

Star Trek reminded me to question the nature of time and reality. *Zeitgeist* reminded me to question authority. *The Five Faces of Genius* reminded me that of the five faces (Alchemist, Seer, Sage, Observer and Fool), my own dominant faces—those that serve me well in creating new ideas—are Observer and Alchemist. *Think Like Chinese* reminded me of differences in culture, language and worldviews that exist between East and West as well as pointing to where new business opportunities may exist. The Kybalion (which I've summarized in a previous article) reminded me among other things of the Principle of Rhythm, which states *"Everything flows out and in; everything has its tides; all things rise and fall; the pendulum swing manifests in everything."*

The students and teachers at Hopwood Elementary's recent Career Day asked the question that set the ball in motion: *What's the best business to start right now?*

In my efforts to impart some information of value to you, I'll share with you what I've learned for myself over the past week. These are the insights I've arrived at through the unique messengers that appeared in my own life. The messages they imparted were unique to my goals and aspirations. Your messengers will be different, or they may present different messages. In other words, were you to see the same movies, read the same books or meet the same people, the discussions and perspectives that ensue—and thus their importance and relevance in your own life—would be different. Your goals are different.

Is *your* goal to make a specific amount of money? Is it to start a business? Is it simply to survive? Even though our messengers may differ, I suggest to you today that the pieces of whatever puzzle you are presently attempting to solve are already in front of you. There are always pieces of the puzzle swirling around. There are answers staring you in the face. There are options and assets lying at or under your feet. Let's see how we can take the first step to finding them.

As bad as things seem right now, it's the perfect opportunity to...

The first step, which grew from the questions asked at Hopwood, is to approach all the seemingly negative situations in life with a new line of thought. Instead of wallowing in "woe is me," launch your thoughts with *"as bad as things may seem right now, it's actually the perfect opportunity to…"*

That line of thought, and the perspectives, observations, and solutions which derive from it are ultimately what will save you, and help you prosper in business as well as life in this critical time of change.

With that line of thought as your starting point, your next step is to step outside the spirit of the age—the literal meaning of the word "zeitgeist"—and ask new questions.

Question reality and (those who claim to be) authority. Develop new worldviews. Observe and combine (as the Alchemist does) seemingly unrelated and disparate pieces of the puzzle. Prepare and position yourself (as the Kybalion extols) for the collapse or inevitable pendulum swing in the opposite direction. Seek and explore strange new alternatives (boldly go where no one has....you get the idea). For example:

As bad as the economy appears...

…it's the perfect opportunity to question the viability of capitalism the way it has been practiced. Prepare for the demise of what exists. Take existing scenarios to their foolish extremes in the effort to prepare for the future. Seek out "strange" new alternatives. Build your livelihood around these new alternatives.

As bad as swine flu pandemic appears...

…it's the perfect opportunity to question the nature of immunity, the nature of true health, the presumed inevitability of sickness and how it is addressed by Western medicine. It is time to seek out strange new alternatives. Prepare for the demise of what exists. (There are people who live without fear of germs and viruses because of what

See AS BAD on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Nerds

By STEPHEN B. SMITH
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office. E-mail him at saipansmith1940@yahoo.com.

Nerds are those legendary losers who can't get a date, can't get it right, and can't even get into trouble! You gotta love it. The late mister Blackwell, that well known Brit of fashion fame, never deliberately added any well known nerd to his annual list of worst dressed people in the world. He could have, but didn't, perhaps because they were such easy targets. You remember…

The kid who wore big flower print shirts, maybe suspenders—before Larry King made them acceptable—and pulled his pants halfway up his chest while his more macho compadres wore theirs so low that they threatened to become a police matter.

Nerds can't talk socially to anyone about anything that is not directly related to something serious—like astrophysics. I actually know a young man who does that very thing. He's tall, handsome, IQ of 160, and no it's not me—well at least the tall part. But, seriously, the German army at Stalingrad had less trouble than this young man has had in trying to find a girlfriend to—uh—network with socially. He has however lately found such a one; and, she actually is studying, I am not kidding, astrophysics, and that at UC Berkeley. I guess it takes one to know one.

To give you some idea how difficult it is for such as this young man to relate, feature this. Another friend recently sent me an item that I thought was as funny as could be. To wit…

"Can't find the perfect gift for your sweetheart for Valentine's Day? How about the gift of a pre-arranged funeral."

Now, I don't know about you folks, but a pre-arranged life-departure ceremony doesn't strike me as a particularly romantic idea—any implicit practicality notwithstanding. My young friend, however, actually argued with me about it; he thought it was a stroke of genius! Different, sensible, thoughtful, and needed by most folks, i.e., those who one day would actually have to die, he maintained. I was speechless. You can't argue with a nerd. Their arguments are invariably scientifically defensible. Those, the arguments, of us commoners are usually less so.

Einstein was a nerd, and it is a fact that he very often did not tie his shoes. When his famous contemporary, Niels Bohr, asked him about it, so the legend goes, Einstein was said to have remarked that he didn't have the time, i.e., to tie his shoes. That it was apparent he couldn't find the time to comb his hair is also telling.

Bill Gates is known to have been a nerd, and it was only by the sheerest of luck that he managed to find a woman who was simpatico with his interests—actually an employee of his company—that he was saved from social isolation. He has of course achieved notable success in the world of both computer science and finance. The word is that he is the richest man who ever lived.

Getting the picture. Nerds may not be the best dancers in the world, and their conversation, though undoubtedly meaningful, may not be as interesting as say Blackwell's list of the worst dressed celebrities in the world, but they do have a place in society that somebody has to fill. Oh, what's that, you ask? Well…

By definition a nerd is, "*He or she for whom the rest of us will one day work!"* You gotta love it. So, the next time you see someone sitting alone at a cocktail party, wearing a shirt with big flowered prints, and holding a glass of cranberry juice, don't neglect 'em. Get 'em something stronger and network the heck out of them.

Amidst the global financial meltdown

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The persistent slide of local revenues headed deeper south amidst the global financial meltdown and H1N1 leaves our peaceful mind drained, battered and forced into a guarded sense of hope, upon which we cling, praying "Enough."

Against the steady tsunami of devastation, I have heard the hopeless expressions and longing from among families and friends of the golden days gone into the ash heap of history. But I've encouraged them to stay optimistic in that this socio-economic scourge is biblical and shall also pass someday soon.

It's hard clinging to optimism given bad tidings of home foreclosures, job losses for lone family income earners, inability to pay for health care, and businesses going belly-up in this archipelago. These phenomena are all part and whole of the global financial meltdown, not to mention the economic consequences of the H1N1 flu. It's a tale from which recovery would eventually emerge but on a protracted basis.

This is the inescapable reality in paradise today that could also be found in every neighboring country in Asia. More bad tidings as millions of college students in China won't be able to land their first jobs upon graduation this year or thousands in Europe who will face the same fate.

Here at home, hundreds upon hundreds of able workers have been displaced by the closure of the once $1.2 billion apparel industry, the departure of Japan Airlines, small businesses biting the dust, among others. It has created a severe structural imbalance in what the local government collects annually, forcing must-cut operations expenses. It's a gloomy scenario, no matter how you splice, slice or dice it.

My peers have seen worse in the early '60s. But we were fortunate then to be armed with strong resiliency—our traditional ways—returning to subsistence living and enduring the hardship that we had to face. It provided the opportunity to learn traditional living founded on communal sharing in farming and fishing. We walked behind our parents at dusk (after several hours of pull net fishing) or returning home on foot from the family farm. Those were the golden days we revisit occasionally in quiet nostalgia, fully wary too that we can't turn back the hands of time.

In recent months, even the Legislature engaged in lively debate over the real need to proactively seek revenue generating economic activities to scaffold business closures over the last decade. Obviously, it is wary that we can't let doom and despondence rule the day when crushed in the devastation of a global financial meltdown. In brief, we must rally behind making this happen for the sake of posterity. We can't simply intone, "Make the world go away". There has to be a synergistic convergence between the two sectors to ponder upon paradigms that could work. Embracing adolescence or apathy isn't the answer either.

Amidst the challenges of a global economy sputtering for life, I am reminded of an old Indian adage: "Even a strong tree will fall when a huge storm hits." Indeed, it is very stormy in the sea of paradise for many families.

But there's still hope, however faint it may be in the distant horizon. This hardship too shall pass!

Letters to the Editor

Thank you, Mr. Cohen

Leave it to our former deputy assistant secretary of Insular Affairs, David Cohen, to coin the phrase "flexible federalization" in testimony to the Insular Affairs Subcommittee hearing on behalf of residents of the CNMI.

Though he was vilified as evil by the current administration, HANMI, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during his term here, his suggestions to ease the transition period, reduce uncertainty, address complicated human rights concerns, and offer the CNMI a niche that Silicon Valley would kill for to build a second leg for our crumbling economy, were nothing less than brilliant.

Mr. Cohen's remarks on visa waivers should appease the business community, his green card proposal addresses our human rights issues and concerns of separating U.S. citizen children from their parents, and he rekindled the idea of unlimited H visas, which would reduce uncertainty, guarantee a stable workforce, and provide a niche for the CNMI to offer investors and corporations as a reason to eye the Marianas for future development.

Thank you, Mr. Cohen, your testimony was the voice of reason in a sea of discontent.

Ron Hodges
via e-mail

Religion classes in school

According to this article in Friday's edition of the *Saipan Tribune,* a proposal was made to allow religion class credits to count as elective classes in order for the transferee to meet the graduation requirements. I personally know a few kids that have been affected by "PSS policy 2510" and Galvin Guerrero makes a good point in saying that it's not the students' fault they had to transfer; it's the bad economy that forced them to make the move. The biggest issue here (I hope I'm not the only one that noticed) is the clear-cut separation of church and state. The test that Galvin offered was a pretty good idea (though I'm not sure how that would work). Galvin is thinking of creative ways to allow those students to meet graduation requirements without getting the board into legal trouble and these ideas should be reviewed. I think the board should cut the crap and really put the "students first."

Marvin Lobrio
MHS student

AS BAD

From Page 10

they know, and which those in power keep suppressed.)

As bad as the layoffs and dealer closures in auto industry appear...

…it's the perfect opportunity to streamline a bloated industry. (There are those on both sides—those who remain, and those who are let go—who welcome the opportunity to prosper in a more profitable marketplace, or to find new markets in which to prosper.)

As bad as the sales in your business might be...

…it's the perfect opportunity to reconsider your existing business model. Question what you are selling. Question how it is being sold. Question where you are selling it. (There are those who recognize and accept the ever-moving nature of opportunity, and the migratory nature of societies and simply prepare for the inevitable.)

Entire books can and have been written on each of the above scenarios, so it's simply the gist of the thought process that's important for our discussion.

A matter of survival

As we've discussed in previous episodes, the third most important question to each and every one of us is *How shall I survive? (The other two are 1. Who am I? 2. Why am I here?)*

The changes that we are all witness to—global warming, pandemics, economic upheaval, layoffs, etc.—all seem to threaten survival in some way or other. The changes themselves are, in many ways, beyond our ability to avoid or avert. They are the culmination of and have been precipitated by a way of thought and a spirit that existed for many years, perhaps even centuries prior. They only seem insurmountable because we are viewing them, and any potential solutions from within the box from which they emanated.

We must realize that the answer to the inevitable question: *What should I do now?* will never be adequately answered by those people, institutions, worldviews and priorities (the same box) which got us into the predicament. For instance, people are applying capitalistic solutions to fix and avert the demise of capitalism. People are using Western germ theory to fix what may be easily remedied with a focus on building true bodily immunity. These solutions are likely to simply exacerbate the dilemma.

There are people on the fringe whose ideas seem controversial, or who might be ridiculed by the establishment, not because their ideas are not viable, but for the simple reason that they hasten the pendulum swing, and remove power from the hands of those who currently wield it and put it in the hands of those who do not.

The truth is, as bad as things may seem, there are workable solutions, but they don't resemble the solutions of old, and they are not coming from the mouths and minds of those we have been told hold the answers. Will you dare to listen?

■ ■ ■ ■

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

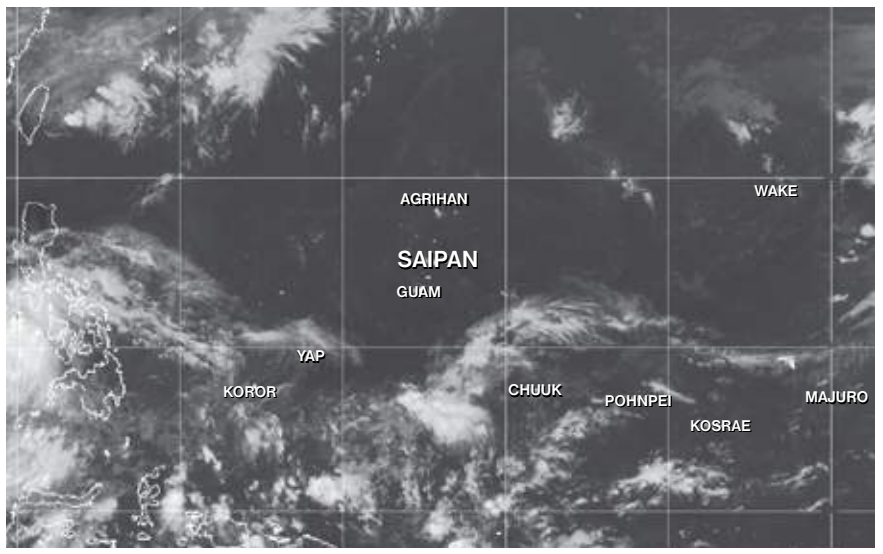
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲88	▼76
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲54	▼42
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼64
Hong Kong	Showers	▲86	▼77
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼69
London	Rain	▲66	▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲74	▼58
Manila	Showers	▲90	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼52
Miami	Rain	▲85	▼72
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼57
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼60
Paris	Thundershowers	▲67	▼52
Pusan	Cloudy	▲62	▼56
Rome	Sunny	▲85	▼61
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼41
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲65	▼50
Seoul	Cloudy	▲74	▼59
Tokyo	Sunny	▲84	▼68
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Palau toward the equator in an area south of a line from 6N130E to 6N136E to 3N143E. A surface trough between Yap and Chuuk extends from 9N146E to 5N145E and is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms along and up to 150 miles east of the trough. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in three areas. One area is southeast of Chuuk within 75 miles of a line from 6N155E to 4N152E to 2N152E. The second area is far south of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 75 miles of a line from 2N158E to 2N162E. The third area is southeast of Majuro within 75 miles of a line from 6N174E to 3N180. A surface trough near Minami Tori Shima extends from 23N153E to 25N153E and is triggering scattered showers within 50 miles of the trough. A surface trough just north of Wake Island from 20N167E to 24N164E is triggering scattered showers within 50 miles of the trough. An upper-level trough extends from 25N173E southwestward to 16N170E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found in an area northeast of Wake Island between 20N and 25N from 170E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:53 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:45 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
4:45 PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:18 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:04 AM	2:23 PM
Thursday	2:42 AM	3:26 PM
Friday	3:24 AM	4:23 PM
Saturday	4:10 AM	5:24 PM
Sunday	5:02 AM	6:29 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Saipan Southern High students blog their book of interest

Over 30 Saipan Southern High School students are participating in this year's NMI Council for Humanities project, *Reading Rave II.*

Reading Rave II is a schoolwide reading and literacy program that is taking place in Saipan Southern High School Library from January 12 to June 15, 2009. Highly motivated high school students write their thoughts and comments about the books that they read in an online book discussion. Students hope that their peers will read their comments in the blog and it will encourage them to read that particular book from the school library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School students participating in this year's *Reading Rave II* discuss the books they've read and the things they've learned from this exercise.

Bo Mi Lee, a junior student, says, "Before I started reading books and posting blogs about my opinion about the books, reading was not such an interesting subject to me. I just read books and did not really ponder or had any opinion of the stories. But after I started posting each thought on the blog per chapter, I let myself express how I feel about the main characters and the events [in the book]. I could think more profoundly and meticulously about each storyline and these kept me on track. I like the fact that I could analyze, criticize, summarize, and show my clear point of view about the books. It aroused me to read more, think more and enjoy more."

ON THE NET
http://readingrave.blogspot.com/

Yuichiro Yagi, a senior student, read *City of Ember* by Jean DuPrau. He reviews the book, "This book makes me think the life we are living is now is taken for granted. This book is way better than the movie. I can't wait to read the sequel, *The People of Sparks."*

Sudi Q. Napalan, the teacher librarian of Saipan Southern High School and the Reading Rave Project director, says, "I am grateful that the NMI Council of Humanities and CNMI Public School System have been supporting our projects for two years in a row. Students get to enjoy newly released books in our library. This motivates our students to read more and I am proud of the outcome of our reading projects."

Reading Rave II blog can be accessed online at http://readingrave.blogspot.com/.

This project was made possible by support from the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, a nonprofit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2009 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting Thursday May 21, 2009 at the Bay View Hotel in Rota at 10:00am - 2:00pm.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY ITEM
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Review & Adoption of Agenda
- D. Review & Adoption of Minutes (Mar. 09, 2009)

II. REPORTS
- A. SRC Chairperson
- B. Committee Chairpersons
- C. OVR Director

III. OLD BUSINESS
- A. FY 2010 State Plan Updates
- B. Review & Adoption of Policy Items
- C. SRC/OVR Vacancies
- D. Review of Consumer Forms

IV. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Projects under the ARRA funding
- B. Accessible Mass Transit

V. CONSUMERS' FORUM

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS & MISCELLANEOUS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

SRC Chairperson

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require reasonable accommodations are asked to contact Magin Iginoef at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY), four days in advance for necessary accomodations.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA - CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

Public Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

RECOVERY ACT

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Office of the Governor is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs and it is requesting pre-qualified programs under the Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Programs to submit their application.

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). As one of its many elements, the Recovery Act provides through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) funding for grants to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement (including support for hiring), to combat violence against women, to fight internet crimes against children, to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crimes, and to support youth mentoring. The Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Office of the Governor is in full support of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) commitment to a working partnership to ensure this funding invests in the American workforce.

A brief description and amounts available for each program are listed below, less planning and administrative costs stipulated under each program which are allotted to CJPA as the Designated State Administering Agency (DSAA) for these programs in the CNMI.

FY 2009 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant: $1,640,925
Proposed as a mechanism to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the JAG Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG replaces the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Programs with a single funding mechanism to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most, and simplifies the administration process for grantees. The JAG purpose areas are: Law Enforcement Programs, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education Programs, Corrections and Community Corrections Programs, Drug Treatment Programs and Planning, Evaluation, Technology Improvement Programs, and Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). Any law enforcement or justice initiative previously eligible for funding under Byrne or LLEBG is eligible for JAG funding.

Funds under this program may be used to support the hiring, training, and employing of additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel on a continuing basis. Furthermore, funds can be used to procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions, as well as establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.

FY 2009 Recovery Act - Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Victim Assistance Formula Grant: $206,000
Established in 1984, the VOCA, Office for Victims of Crime oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. The OVC through VOCA grant program provides funding to support state and territory victim assistance and compensation programs, which are the lifeline services that help victims to heal. Funds made available through VOCA assistance program supports trainings designed to educate criminal justice and allied professionals regarding the rights and needs of crime victims. Included in this category, funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, survivors of homicide and other crime victims.

Reports: As one of the critical requirements under the Recovery Act, CJPA is encouraging all eligible subawardees to observe and comply with the following statement from the Department of Justice:
"Reporting; DUNS and CCR. Quarterly reporting requirements for Recovery Act awards include reporting with respect to subawards. In order to facilitate that reporting, award recipients must work with their first-tier subawardees (if any) to ensure that, no later than the due date of the award recipient's first quarterly report after a subaward is made, the subawardee has a DUNS number and is registered with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database."

The available funds was proposed and approved by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and Office of Victims of Crime (OVC). The funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. The Supervisory Council is expected to meet on late May and will be announced.

A "hardcopy" of the application is due and must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 22, 2009.

For more information, please contact the CJPA at 664-4550/7 or stop by the office on Capitol Hill (Bldg. #1314 or #1315). Also, the application template is available on the CJPA website at www.cjpa.gov.mp for use. If necessary, please call Mr. Jerome Ierome, Executive Director at 664-4557.

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director, CJPA

Island Snapshots

INFORMATION SESSION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Prospective students listen intently at the Northern Marianas College's Information Session held Monday, May 18. The Session's attendees qualified for waivers for the College's application and placement test fees for the Summer and Fall 2009 Semesters. Registration for the Summer 2009 Session will run from Wednesday, May 20, to Friday, May 22. For a list of courses offered during the summer, please log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

MAYORS' CONFERENCE

Joseph P. Bradley, vice president and economic/market statistics officer for Bank of Guam speaks at the Second Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

CHRISTENING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Welcome to the Christian world to baby Kaitlyn Alexza! Joining her is her sister Brianna, Daddy Ariel, and Mommy Crispy as they continue their celebration at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

NEW FUND TRUSTEES HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos, center, congratulates Francisco P. Rosario, left, and Adelina C. Roberto as new members of the Retirement Fund board of trustees, some two hours after the Senate confirmed their nominations yesterday.

WISE WOMEN PROJECT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Wise Women Village Project conducts a presentation at the Garapan Head Start Center on May 15, 2009. The project, under the Division of Public Health, provides free health information and health screening for women 25-65 years old. The target group is indigenous women and Pacific Islands women.

Participants in the Wise Women Village Project undergo free health monitoring at the Garapan Head Start Center on May 15, 2009. The free health screening included checkups for blood sugar level, cholesterol, blood pressure, breast examination, Pap and HPV test, and body weight. According to Deseree Herrera, "Our goal is to be able to educate parents on behavior changes on matters such as nutrition, physical activity, and staying tobacco-free."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IMMIGRATION VIGIL

Guest workers began their three-day peaceful assembly early Monday morning in front of TSL Plaza in Garapan to press for better immigration status in the CNMI.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

This woman on the right expresses her sentiment with a wraparound skirt that boldly states her opposition to the proposed one-year delay in the implementation of federalization in the CNMI.

HAIDE V. EUGENIO

Business

IT&E sale is final as FCC grants licenses

IT&E announced yesterday that effective last May 12, the FCC granted the transfer of domestic and international section 214, wireless, earth station and microwave licenses from IT&E Overseas Inc. to PTI Pacifica Inc., d/b/a IT&E. The FCC rejected all of the competitor's arguments which opposed the transfer and concluded that the approval of the transaction is in the public interest.

IT&E executive vice president Larry Knecht was pleased with the FCC's ruling and said that it represents the months of hard work and dedication put forth by IT&E's management and staff.

"It has been two years of very hard work, so personally it's a very satisfying day. Both PTI and IT&E are better companies today than they where we were a year ago. We have a very bright future, and exciting opportunities ahead," said Knecht.

"This ruling allows us to focus 100 percent of our energy on making the No. 1 telecommunications company in the Marianas even stronger. We have made some very large investments in our network and we see those changes starting to take effect now. I feel very positive about our ability to compete in the marketplace and bring the latest technology to our customers," he added.

Ricky Delgado, president and CEO of IT&E agreed with Knecht and added "This is just the beginning of a long and exciting chapter in ITE's history."

In the past year, IT&E has installed a completely new state-of-the-art $10 million CDMA network with the only high speed mobile broadband in Guam and the CNMI, updated the IT&E brand and tagline, and has just completed the renovation of their Micronesia Mall store. With the final licenses transferred the IT&E look will be complete with new long distance and wireless prepaid cards which are expected in the market very soon. The company's website will also change to reflect the new brand image. ***(PR)***

Obama to tap consumers for emission and mpg standards

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama plans to propose the first-ever national emission limits for cars and trucks as well as average mileage requirements of 35.5 miles per gallon by 2016—all costing consumers an extra $1,300 per vehicle. Obama's plan couples for the first time pollution reduction from vehicle tailpipes with increased efficiency on the road. It would save 1.8 billion barrels of oil through 2016 and would be the environmental equivalent to taking 177 million cars off the road, senior administration officials said Monday night.

Obama

The plan also would effectively end a feud between automakers and statehouses over emission standards—with the states coming out on top but the automakers getting a single national standard and more time to make the changes.

The plan still must clear regulatory hurdles at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Transportation Department. The administration officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because the formal announcement by Obama was scheduled for Tuesday.

New vehicles would be 30 percent cleaner and more fuel efficient by the end of the program, according to officials familiar with the administration's discussions. The officials also spoke on condition of anonymity because the formal announcement had not been made.

Dealer group in talks with Chrysler on franchises

NEW YORK (AP)—A group representing Chrysler dealers said Monday it is in talks with the automaker in hopes of getting it to scale back plans to terminate the franchise agreements of about a quarter of its dealers.

Michael Bernstein, an attorney for the Chrysler National Dealer Council, said that while it's unlikely that Chrysler LLC will change its mind about eliminating dealer franchises, he's optimistic that the company will at least agree to end fewer than the 789 originally listed in its court motion.

In addition, he said the group wants to ensure that the dealers whose franchise agreements ultimately are terminated get the help they need from Chrysler for a smooth transition.

"Certainly the dealers have an interest in a successful restructuring of Chrysler and the National Dealer Council doesn't want to do anything that would interfere with Chrysler's ongoing viability," Bernstein said. "But we're hopeful we can reach an agreement on terms that will allow it to have as little adverse impact as possible on the dealers."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Airlines post rare improvement in ustomer survey

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A new study shows airlines are doing a better job of taking care of the passengers they still have. Passenger satisfaction with airline service rose more than 3 percent earlier this year, according to a new University of Michigan study. That's the first time in six years that airlines have seen their score rise. The increase comes as the number of passengers drops and airlines have reduced flying. Southwest Airlines has the highest score. The biggest improvers were Continental Airlines and US Airways, which both rose more than 9 percent. United Airlines was unchanged in last place. Claes Fornell led the study. He says businesses that are losing money have a tough time providing good service.

US: Drugmaker Wyeth cheated Medicaid

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department on Monday accused Wyeth, one of the nation's biggest drugmakers, of cheating Medicaid programs out of hundreds of millions of dollars by overcharging for a stomach acid drug. The Justice Department and more than a dozen states have joined in two whistleblower lawsuits against the Madison, N.J.-based drug company filed in federal court in Massachusetts. The government is seeking financial penalties against the company of up to three times the amount lost by Medicaid. And if a settlement is reached, the two whistleblowers who filed the original suits likely would be entitled to some share of the sum.

New LOW Roaming Rates to the US
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Nation

Obama prods Netanyahu, Iran in Mideast foray

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Monday opened his deepest foray into the Middle East quagmire, telling Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu he must stop Jewish settlements and should grasp a "historic opportunity" to make peace with the Palestinians.

Obama also had pointed words for Iran on a second major Mideast dispute, warning the Iranians they had until year's end to get serious about talks with the world community on curbing their nuclear ambitions. "We're not going to have talks forever," the president said.

Obama and Netanyahu spoke highly of their hopes for progress in the Mideast after a lengthy private meeting in the Israeli's first visit to the White House since Obama became president and Netanyahu began his second stint as prime minister. Yet the new president was firm in insisting the Israelis move toward peace with the Palestinians, and Netanyahu stuck to his stance that Israel cannot negotiate with people who deny its right to exist.

The two leaders found fruitful grounds for agreement on Iran.

Israel is deeply concerned about Iran's perceived attempts to build a nuclear weapon, believing the virulently anti-Israeli regime might naturally target the Jewish state the lies in easy range of Tehran's missile technology.

Beyond that, the Iranians have been a key sponsor of anti-Israeli Islamic militants who refuse—as does Tehran—to accept Israel's existence. Most dangerously, the Iranian-funded and armed Hamas organization currently runs the Gaza Strip, while Hezbollah, the other Iranian proxy, has historically harassed Israel with rocket attacks from Lebanon on the north.

AP

President Barack Obama meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Monday, May 18, 2009.

The Bush administration diplomatically bludgeoned Iran over its nuclear efforts but refused to formally engage the Islamic government in Tehran. Obama, deeply concerned that a nuclear-armed Iran could spark an arms race in the Middle East and deepen the threat to Israeli security, has changed course and seeks to engage the Iranians in direct talks.

So far there has been no positive Iranian response. Obama said he assumed the country's leadership was distracted with its presidential election campaign but thought he would be able to gauge Iranian seriousness in the coming months.

"We should have a fairly good sense by the end of the year as to whether they are moving in the right direction and whether the parties involved are making progress and that there's a good-faith effort to resolve differences," the president said.

Iran insists its nuclear program is intended solely for civilian electricity generation.

With Netanyahu at his side, Obama said he had told the new Israeli leader during more than two-hours of talks that his government must move quickly to resume peace talks with the Palestinians and had insisted negotiations start from a previous agreement on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Astronauts finish repairs on Hubble space telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Spacewalking astronauts completed repairs to the Hubble Space Telescope on Monday, leaving it more powerful than ever and able to peer even deeper into the cosmos—almost to the brink of creation. The last humans to lay hands on Hubble outfitted the observatory with another set of fresh batteries, a new sensor for precise pointing and protective covers.

That equipment, along with other improvements made over the last five days, should allow the telescope to provide dazzling views of the universe for another five to 10 years.

"This is a very important moment in human history," Hubble senior project scientist David Leckrone said in Houston. "We will rewrite the textbooks at least one more time."

It was the fifth and final spacewalk for the shuttle Atlantis crew, and the final visit by astronauts ever to Hubble.

As the spacewalk drew to a close, Hubble's chief mechanic, John Grunsfeld, accidentally bumped one of the telescope's antennas and knocked off its cap with his backpack.

"Oh, I feel terrible," he groaned.

Mission Control quickly assured the astronauts the antenna was fine.

"Sorry, Mr. Hubble, have a good voyage," Grunsfeld said after he covered up the tip.

"Consider it a goodbye kiss, John," one of his crewmates said.

The astronauts planned to set Hubble free from the shutte's cargo bay on Tuesday.

Court: Sept. 11 detainee lawsuit cannot proceed

WASHINGTON (AP)—FBI Director Robert Mueller and former Attorney General John Ashcroft cannot be sued by a former Sept. 11 detainee who claimed he was abused because of his religion and ethnicity, a sharply divided Supreme Court said Monday in a decision that could make it harder to sue top officials for the actions of low-level operatives.

The court overturned a lower court decision that let Javaid Iqbal's (Ickball) lawsuit against the high-ranking officials proceed.

Iqbal is a Pakistani Muslim who spent nearly six months in solitary confinement in New York in 2002. He had argued that while Ashcroft and Mueller did not single him out for mistreatment, they were responsible for a policy of confining detainees in highly restrictive conditions because of their religious beliefs or race.

But the government argued that there was nothing linking Mueller and Ashcroft to the abuses that happened to Iqbal at a Brooklyn, N.Y., prison's Administrative Maximum Special Housing Unit, and the court agreed.

"The complaint does not show or even intimate, that petitioners purposefully housed detainees in the ADMAX SHU due to their race, religion or national origin," said Justice Anthony Kennedy, who wrote the majority opinion. "All it plausibly suggests is that the nation's top law enforcement officers, in the aftermath of a devastating attack, sought to keep suspected terrorists in the most secure conditions available until the suspects could be cleared of terrorist activity."

The New York-based 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had said the lawsuit could proceed.

Richard A. Samp, lawyer for the Washington Legal Foundation, welcomed the court's ruling. "It ensures the ability of senior national security officials to perform their duties without the distraction of having to defend against claims for money damages," he said.

"The decision's effect will be widespread. By enabling all defendants to win dismissal of unsubstantiated claims, it will make it more difficult for plaintiffs to coerce settlements from defendants seeking to avoid the costs of discovery," Samp said.

Sheriff: La. 8th-grader planned school shooting

LAROSE, La. (AP)—A Louisiana middle school student stormed into a classroom and fired a gunshot over a teacher's head Monday before shooting himself in a bathroom, authorities said. Investigators found a suicide note and plans for a rampage in the teen's journal.

The 15-year-old student, whose name was not released, fired once around 9 a.m. inside a classroom at Larose-Cut Off Middle School, then shot himself in the head, said Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre. He was in critical but stable condition. The teacher had never taught the teen.

Webre said investigators found a note describing the boy's plans to "gear up" before his spree, along with a drawing of how he'd dress. The boy also scribbled "I am king" and "y'all will die!" on a sheet of paper investigators found.

Although he apparently was intent on killing people, he was armed with only four bullets for the .25-caliber, semiautomatic pistol he had taken from his father's home during the weekend. The boy's mother noticed he seemed nervous before school, but he said he was just worried about seeing his standardized test results, which were released Monday, Webre said.

About 500 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders attend the school in a rural community of about 7,000 people, some 45 miles southwest of New Orleans. Webre said the boy had no disciplinary problems at school and hadn't been in trouble with the law. The teen had no reason to be in the classroom, he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Drew Peterson pleads not guilty to murdering wife

CHICAGO (AP)—Former police officer Drew Peterson pleaded not guilty Monday to killing his third wife, whose death was reclassified as a homicide after the suburban officer's fourth wife disappeared. Peterson, who has been jailed since May 7, was formally arraigned on first-degree murder charges in the 2004 slaying of Kathleen Savio. A prosecution bid to change the judge in the proceeding stalled a defense plan to seek reduced bail for Peterson. Peterson is accused of drowning Savio, who was found dead in a dry bathtub with a gash on the back of her head. Her death initially was ruled an accident. But after Peterson's fourth wife, Stacy, disappeared in 2007, Savio's body was exhumed and authorities reclassified her death as a homicide after an autopsy.

Emanuel, Blagojevich traded calls on school grant

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Rahm Emanuel wanted answers. Funds from a $2 million state grant to a school in his congressional district had not arrived, so he went straight to the man in charge: Gov. Rod Blagojevich. For four successive days in 2006, then-Rep. Emanuel called for Blagojevich, with one message noting it was about the Chicago Academy, according to thousands of pages of call logs reviewed by The Associated Press. Emanuel's chief of staff followed the next week with four more calls to a top Blagojevich aide. The school grant is at the heart of an extortion allegation against Blagojevich, who was thrown out as Illinois governor in January and faces multiple federal corruption charges.

Police: DNA links 6 women's slayings in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A person known only by DNA has killed six women, most of them prostitutes, over two decades in Milwaukee, the city where serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer once cruised gay bars for victims, police said Monday. More than 20 DNA samples from other unsolved homicides of prostitutes are being resent to the state crime laboratory to check for possible links to the killer, police Chief Edward Flynn said at a news conference. The first two victims linked by the killer's DNA died in October 1986, Flynn said. Two more were killed in 1995, one in 1997 and the most recent in April 2007. He said five were known prostitutes and the sixth was involved in drugs.

World

Nations to WHO: Change criteria for pandemic

GENEVA (AP)—Dozens of countries urged the World Health Organization on Monday to change its criteria for declaring a pandemic, saying the agency must consider how deadly a virus is—not just how far it spreads across the globe.

Fearing a swine flu pandemic declaration could spark mass panic and economic devastation, Britain, Japan, China and others asked the global body to tread carefully before raising its alert. Some cited the costly and potentially risky consequences, such as switching from seasonal to pandemic vaccine, even though the virus so far appears to be mild.

Although no formal changes were made Monday, WHO said it would listen to its members' requests.

"It's certainly something we will look at very closely," said Dr. Keiji Fukuda, WHO's flu chief.

The alert for swine flu is now at phase 5, which means the virus is spreading unchecked inside at least two countries in a single region. Under the existing rules, phase 6 indicates outbreaks in at least two different regions of the world and that a pandemic is under way.

"We need to give you and your team more flexibility as to whether we move to phase 6," Britain's Health Secretary Alan Johnson told WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan, a public health veteran who has made combating the outbreak her top priority since the new virus appeared in North America last month.

Chan warned that swine flu could pose a grave threat to humanity even though the fatality rate is low, with 76 known deaths out of 8,829 confirmed cases.

Sri Lanka president says country free from terror

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa delivered a victory address to parliament Tuesday, declaring that his country had been "liberated" from terrorism after defeating the Tamil Tiger rebels on the battlefield.

Rajapaksa spoke to a rapt assembly of lawmakers a day after government forces killed the last of the rebels' fighters on the battlefield in the north. The government said it had killed rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran in the final battle as well, but Rajapaksa never mentioned the rebel leader in his speech.

Recounting how the rebels, known formally as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, once controlled a wide swath of the north and much of the east, Rajapaksa said that for the first time in 30 years, the country was unified under its elected government.

"We have liberated the whole country from LTTE terrorism," he said, declaring Wednesday a national holiday to celebrate the armed forces.

The rebels, listed as terrorists by the U.S. and European Union, had been fighting for three decades for a homeland for the mainly Hindu Tamil minority after decades of marginalization at the hands of governments dominated by the mainly Buddhist Sinhalese majority.

Briefly addressing parliament in the Tamil language, Rajapaksa said the war was not waged against the Tamil people.

"Our intention was to save the Tamil people from the cruel grip of the LTTE. We all must now live as equals in this free country," he said.

Mullen: 2 years to turn tide in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's top military officer warned Monday that the deaths of Afghan civilians caught up in U.S. combat operations could cripple President Barack Obama's revamped strategy for the seven-year-old war. "I believe that each time we do that, we put our strategy in jeopardy," Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said. "We cannot succeed ... in Afghanistan by killing Afghan civilians."

Mullen said additional forces and new tactics can help the United States turn a discouraging tide in Afghanistan. He said he was hopeful that "in the next 12- to 24 months, that we can stem the trends which have been going very badly in Afghanistan the last three years."

But speaking at the Brookings Institution, Mullen sounded frustrated that as the first of 21,000 U.S. reinforcements arrive, Taliban insurgents are having a seemingly easy time using America's military prowess against it.

Mullen pointed to this month's disputed U.S. airstrikes in Farah province, in which women and children were apparently among dozens of civilians killed. The United States says the Taliban is responsible for at least some of the deaths, but Mullen didn't spend much time defending U.S. actions.

The May 4-5 incident is still under investigation and Mullen indicated the details may always remain murky.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt criticized for 'inhumane' killing of pigs

CAIRO (AP)—A leading animal rights group criticized Egypt on Monday for using "shocking and cruel" methods to slaughter the country's pigs over swine flu fears, responding to a YouTube video that showed men skewering squealing piglets with large kitchen knives and hitting others with crowbars. The controversy was the latest swirling around Egypt's decision to kill all the country's 300,000 pigs out of concerns they will spread swine flu. But the World Health Organization has said it is entirely unnecessary because the illness is being spread through humans. The government decision also brought accusations that Muslims are attacking minority Christians, who breed the animals. Most Muslims consider pigs unclean and do not eat pork.

Mexico detains hit gang allegedly run by police

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico (AP)—Police in southern Mexico said Monday they arrested a gang of at least six drug cartel assassins, including two alleged hit women, who were allegedly commanded by top police officers. The police chief, two commanders and a former public safety director in the city of Tapachula, near the Guatemala border, were also detained on suspicion of leading the hit gang. They suspects allegedly worked for the Zetas, a gang of enforcers linked to the Gulf cartel. Police and soldiers seized dozens of grenades and assault rifles during the weekend raid in which the alleged assassins were captured, state prosecutors said.

Pakistan denies it is expanding nuclear arsenal

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan denied Monday it was expanding its nuclear arsenal, a week after the top U.S. military officer said there was evidence it was doing so. Pakistan is battling a growing insurgency by Islamist militants with links to al-Qaida and the Taliban. Washington is considering giving it billions of dollars in aid to help fight the insurgents, who are also blamed for attacks on U.S. and foreign troops in neighboring Afghanistan. At a congressional panel last week, Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, was asked whether there was evidence that Pakistan was adding to its nuclear weapons systems and warheads. He simply replied: "Yes."

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-016

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, of **Laptops for Ladera International School of Saipan**. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-016"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 29, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-017

"Computers and Related Equipment for Tinian Junior/ Senior High School"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting, competitive sealed bids for the purchase and delivery of **Desktop Computers, Electronic Equipment, and Digital Projectors for Tinian Junior/Senior High School**. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

The bid form is set up on Items "A through H". Bidders may bid on same or all of the items.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 09-017 "containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than May 29, 2009 at 11:00 a.m., at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Campus Life

Benjamin, Reyes take spotlight at NMC graduation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has named Nicole Deleon Guerrero Benjamin and Jan Michael Macaraeg Reyes as its recipients for the Academic Excellence Award among the AA graduation candidates. These two are graduating with the highest grade point average among all associate degree graduates of the Northern Marianas College Class of 2009. They will be graduating on Saturday, May 23.

Saipan Tribune: What do you plan to do after you graduate?

Nicole: I plan on pursuing my bachelor's degree in either business or accounting, while continuing in my current job.

Jan Michael: Well, I still plan to continue my education and work toward a master's degree or a doctorate in Education, as well as some minors here and there.

ST: What are your sources of inspiration? How did they inspire you?

Nicole: My brothers and sisters. I work hard not only to make them proud, but so that they can put just as much effort in all they do. They inspire me to inspire them.

Benjamin

Reyes

Jan Michael: My main sources of inspiration come from my family, who's been very supportive throughout my whole life; my girlfriend Sharisse Rivera, who's been telling me to do my best and to stop overreacting when it comes to final's week; and most importantly my high school teachers: Mr. James E. Phillips, Dr. Algier, Capt. Torres, as well as Mr. McPhetres, Mr. Keaton and all my co-workers (Leo, Chrislaine, Ms. Zen, Lulu, Jenen, Patrick, Serena, Kayla, Mia, and Dina) at the Counseling Office (Building I). The experiences they all shared, shaped me into who I am today.

ST: What have been your most difficult educational challenges and how did you overcome them?

Nicole: The most difficult part for me was trying to balance being a full-time student, while holding a full-time job. It took me a while to realize that in order to balance the two, I also have to throw in some time for myself and my family. That's how I overcame that challenge—and kept my sanity, too!

Jan Michael: A difficult challenge that I had to overcome was time management. I had to balance my time at work, and the amount of time I needed to put in for my studies.

ST: What's the most important lesson you've learned from your studies?

Nicole: DO NOT PROCRASTINATE.

Jan Michael: You are in charge of your outcomes based on what you do, whether they'd be good or bad.

ST: What's been your most difficult class? Favorite class?

Nicole: My most difficult but most favorite class would probably be Intro to Business. It was difficult because it demanded a lot of time outside of the classroom, but it was also my most favorite because it showed me how rewarding teamwork can be.

Jan Michael: I would have to say that CH 124 was quite a difficult class, not because of the content, but because of how the instructor, Dr. Elena, managed it. She didn't spoon-fed us or "handed out" grades; she allowed us to work for our grade. And this, to me, is one of the most important things that a person must realize—that they are solely responsible for their actions. As for my favorite class, well, I would have to say that I have none, because I enjoyed the challenges in each class that I've taken. Through this, I was able to enjoy them more.

ST: What advice would you give students who are just starting off their college studies?

Nicole: In all that you do, never give anything other than your best.

Jan Michael: To all the students starting their college studies, just keep aiming higher, always do your best, and don't try to look for the easy way out.

ST: Would you recommend that other students start at NMC?

Nicole: Yes.

Jan Michael: Yes, I would recommend NMC to other students. It provides a valuable stepping stone to college, and allows them to feel the responsibility one must take upon themselves if they want to further their education.

THE FATHER-SON CAKE BAKE

Making tasty treats out of cake

By HARRISON SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is a piece submitted by the writer as part of his class activity at the Saipan International School under the class of Ms. Katharyn Tuten-Puckett. The assignment was to come up with a photo essay.

The Cub Scout Pack 913 Father and Son Cake Bake is an annual Saipan activity. It's a cake competition combined with an auction fundraiser. The Cubs and their families, along with the community, look forward to this event. The annual attendance is well over 100 people, and the average dollar amount raises is $200.

The money donated though the sale of the cakes is used to run the Pack for the year. Pack expenses include advancements, activities, awards and other nationally recognized competitive activities such as the Rain Gutter Regatta (boats raced down a rain gutter, powered by a scout's breath), the Pinewood Derby (small cars raced down a track), and the Space Derby (spaceships on a line powered by a propeller).

For the Cake Bake, the scouts are each given a topic that may be similar to Cubs and Movies, Cubs and Family Fun, or Cubs and Insects. The Cubs are also given a secret ingredient and/or decorative item. Each Cub must use his imagination to create a cake with the help of male helpers only.

The rules are:

■ Only males can work on the cake: dads, brothers, and uncles, etc.

■ Every thing on the cake must be edible.

■ Each cake should relate to the theme.

■ In the auction you can't buy your own cake (varies).

The first step in making a cake is buying the supplies. Here is a white cake mix and white frosting.

Top, first we made the giant tube of popcorn from five white cakes, red vines, red icing, popcorn and a lot of other candy. Bottom, the final milk duds box sits open with milk duds coming out. Made with milk duds, black and orange icing, and red vines.

Left, we are cutting the flat chocolate cake because the cake in the can didn't turn out so good. Right, the final soda cake is finished with blue icing, marshmallows, gummies, and a candy straw.

This is the final cake and I wasn't able to get a picture of the cake with the 1st prize ribbon so I drew one.

■ Cake must use secret ingredient.

Each Cake Bake event allows for every Cub to win a prize. There are as many categories as there are Cubs. Additionally, there is the overall champion: the 1st Place winner. Some categories might be Biggest Cake, Best Use of the Secret Ingredient, Most Thematic, and Best Use of Color, for example. Each award has a corresponding prize. The Biggest Cake award might be a giant candy bar, and the award for Most Colorful Cake might win a packet of spray paint candy, for example. The 1st Place Prize is usually a bucket full of cleaning supplies and a big blue ribbon. The reasoning behind the cleaning supplies refers to the mess in the kitchen that's surely been left behind.

Everyone is invited to join in the fun of the auction. And fun it is. While the judges are deliberating, the Cub Master awards the Cubs with any earned advancements. The Cub Scout age is from 8 years old to 10 years old.

This year's Cake Bake was held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on March 18. The Cubs that participated were: Carter Smith, Sterling Brown, Kenyan Schultz, Ben Esplin, Wallyson Wally, Joel Fruit, and Anthony Fruit.

How we did it

Baking a cake is a breeze when you have the help of a mother. Making a cake, though, without the help of any female is a whole other thing. The Cub Scouts have an annual father-son cake bake every year. Each year has a different theme. This year's theme was "Cubs and Movies." There is also a secret ingredient this year: Milk Duds. My brother, Dad, and I decided to make a popcorn tub cake, a drink cake, and Milk Dud cake.

"I was so excited that I won because I thought I was going to lose. There was a couple that were also as good as mine. I also won the biggest cake award," says Carter Smith.

Life & Style

'Idol' finalists: Focus on the singing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" finalists Kris Allen and Adam Lambert don't want to get personal.

The singers told a throng of media gathered Monday outside the Nokia Theatre, where the duo will duke it out during the show's two-night finale on Tuesday and Wednesday, that they hope viewers will base their votes for the next "Idol" on performance alone.

AP

In this publicity image released by Fox, "American Idol" finalists, Kris Allen, of Conway, Ark., left, and Adam Lambert, of San Diego, are shown on May 13, 2009, in Los Angeles.

"For me, I hope that having the Christian vote doesn't help with anything," said Allen, a 23-year-old college student who has worked as a worship leader at the New Life Church in his hometown of Conway, Ark. "I hope it has to do with your talent and the performance that you give and the package that you have. It's not about religion and all that kind of stuff."

Lambert, a 27-year-old theater actor from San Diego who once worked in the Los Angeles cast of "Wicked," heartily agreed. He said he does not think the contest "has anything to do with your religious background, what color you are, your gender. It doesn't have anything to do with that. It's about music. That's really important to keep in mind."

The pair are scheduled to be joined on Wednesday's finale by Lionel Richie, Carlos Santana, Cyndi Lauper, Queen Latifah, Black Eyed Peas, Keith Urban, Jason Mraz and previous "Idol" winner David Cook. Allen teased that they may duet with some of those artists on Wednesday—but neither finalist would reveal any details about their finale performances.

"They're good songs," said Lambert. "I think everyone will like them."

To prepare for the two-night finale, Allen said he's been saving his voice by texting instead of talking while Lambert plans to order a "really big room service breakfast" on Tuesday morning. Both singers said they have become friends and felt like they have already won the popular Fox singing competition, pledging to support each other's music in the future.

"I know I'm going to be first in line to buy his album," gushed Lambert.

"Same here," added Allen. "Maybe you'll give it to me."

"You don't have to buy it," teased Lambert. "I'll send you a copy."

Marini and Johnson tie at 'Dancing' final

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shawn Johnson and Gilles Marini head into Tuesday's "Dancing With the Stars" finale tied with 58 points. Melissa Rycroft is two points behind with 56. Johnson earned a perfect score Monday for her spirited freestyle dance, plus 28 points for her paso doble. Marini performed a perfect paso and scored 28 points for his freestyle dance.

Rycroft collected 29 points for her paso doble and 27 for her freestyle performance.

All three said Monday they want to win.

Rycroft said her 11 weeks on the hit ABC show have been such a whirlwind that it took her some time to realize that she wanted to take home the trophy.

"I really do want it," she said.

Johnson, the show's youngest competitor ever at 17, said, "Win, lose or draw, I gave my best."

Marini said being on the show has been "a blessing," and his professional partner, Cheryl Burke, noted the show's outcome is in fans' hands now.

"We've done all we can do," she said.

A new "Dancing" champ will be crowned Tuesday.

Kennedy: Claim in new book is 'absolute nonsense'

NEW YORK (AP)—Caroline Kennedy denied Monday that she ended her quest for the U.S. Senate because her kids and husband complained she was becoming an angry, intense person.

Kennedy, the daughter of slain President John F. Kennedy and niece of Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy, said on NBC's "Today" show that reports she dropped out of the race because her family no longer recognized her as a cool, composed mother and wife were "absolute nonsense."

A new book, "Ted Kennedy: The Dream That Never Dies," by Edward Klein quotes an attorney saying Kennedy became "loud, harsh and grating" in pursuing the appointment.

Asked why she pulled out, Kennedy replied, "That was the right decision. There are many ways to serve."

Asked what she thought of Gov. David Paterson's handling of the selection process to fill the seat vacated when Hillary Rodham Clinton ascended to U.S. Secretary of State, Kennedy answered, "I've moved on."

Kennedy

The book depicts jockeying inside the family to carry on the tradition of public service through politics after Sen. Kennedy was diagnosed with brain cancer. Kennedy felt the appointment "would automatically be hers," the book states, citing an unidentified family adviser.

When Paterson didn't immediately name her to succeed Clinton, the book says, she became angry.

It was her children who "jerked Caroline back to reality," the book said. "What would her mother (Jackie) think of all this tabloid attention she was getting? ... That's when Caroline called Paterson and told him she was withdrawing her name."

The book also says, "Caroline's decision came as a crushing blow to Ted."

Paterson ended up choosing Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand to succeed Clinton.

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Meals are hard to stomach when mom is in the kitchen

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My mother is a wonderful person but is one of the world's worst cooks. She'll see a recipe that looks tasty, but if she doesn't have all the ingredients, she will make substitutions. If the recipe calls for uncooked shrimp, she might replace it with canned tuna. If she doesn't have bleu cheese on hand, she will use imitation cheese spread instead.

I have tried to offer her a few important guidelines. First and foremost, be sure to have all the necessary ingredients on hand before beginning to prepare a new recipe. Understand the basic techniques—dice, shred, simmer, stir-fry. Use the recommended cooking temperatures. If the recipe says "saute," do not fry it until it's like shoe leather. Follow the proper cooking time. Fish should not be baked for 90 minutes!

Mom may not appreciate the suggestion of cooking classes, and I know about your cookbooklets. I wonder if they are simple enough for Mom to follow. What do you think?

DYSPEPSIA IN DENVER

DEAR DYSPEPSIA: My recipes are—for the most part—very simple, easy to read and, frankly, delicious. They were collected by two of the most voracious eaters in recent history—my mother and me.

Allow me to share a simple salad recipe with you. Perhaps you and your mother will enjoy making it together. It is chilled and ideal for a warm summer evening.

ABBY'S TOMATO SALAD

12 medium tomatoes, diced (about 8 cups)
2 large red onions, diced (about 3 cups)
1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon finely chopped sweet pickles
1 cup rice vinegar
10 to 12 lettuce leaves

In a large bowl, combine the first four ingredients. Cover and chill several hours or overnight. Using a slotted spoon, portion salad on individual lettuce leaves, allowing 3/4 to 1 cup per serving for a first-course salad.

Serves 10 to 12.

My cookbooklet set contains more than 100 recipes that can be used when families get together to celebrate holidays and other special occasions. My mother often used them when she entertained and so have I. They are time-tested and not complicated.

The booklets can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

My cookbooklet set not only contains recipes, but also tips on entertaining. Have your mother try the tomato salad recipe. If she can't make this one work, then from now on she might be better off buying takeout.

■ ■ ■ ■

CONFIDENTIAL TO "SCREWED UP AGAIN" IN ATLANTA: Please stop being so hard on yourself. I know of no successful person who hasn't struck out at least once in his or her life. In the words of Vince Lombardi: "Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It's courage that counts."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Kanye West pleads not guilty in LA airport case

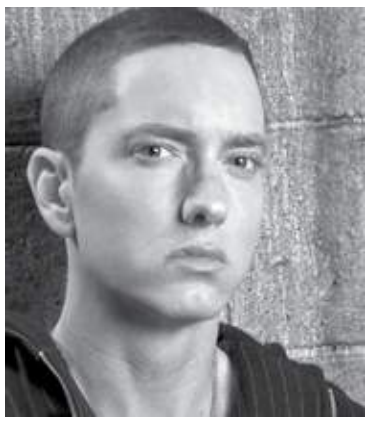
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kanye West has pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor charges stemming from a scuffle with a paparazzo last year.

Los Angeles City Attorney's spokesman Nick Velasquez says West entered the plea through his attorney on Friday. The 31-year-old was not in court.

City prosecutors charged the rapper with misdemeanor battery, grand theft and vandalism. West was arrested on Sept. 11 after an incident in which he was shown breaking a paparazzo's camera flash at Los Angeles International Airport.

West's attorney, Blair Berk, declined to comment on the plea.

The next scheduled hearing in the case is July 15.



Eminem

Eminem gives away tickets for Detroit show

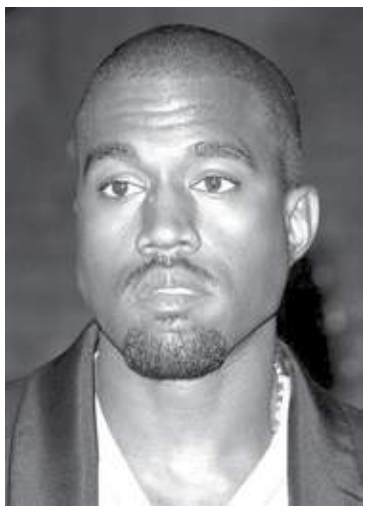
DETROIT (AP)—Eminem is planning a free show in Detroit on the same day his album "Relapse" is released.

He announced plans for Tuesday's show on his MySpace page. Fans lined up for tickets Monday morning at Record Time in the Detroit suburb of Roseville. WXYZ-TV and WJBK-TV report that fewer than 500 tickets were distributed in about 45 minutes.

Eminem spokesman Dennis Dennehy confirmed the show will be at MotorCity Casino's 1,500-seat Sound Board theater. DJ Jazzy Jeff will be a special guest.

The show comes after Eminem and Jimmy Kimmel flew about 200 laid-off auto workers to Los Angeles for the rapper's Friday appearance on Kimmel's TV show. "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" also plans to feature Eminem on Tuesday and Friday.

Eminem is promoting his first studio album in four years.



West

'Star Trek' screened in space

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Star Trek" has been beamed aboard the International Space Station.

Paramount Pictures said they transferred director J.J. Abrams' sci-fi franchise reboot to NASA's Mission Control in Houston. The movie was uplinked to the space station on Thursday.

NASA astronaut Michael Barratt watched the film on a laptop Friday inside the Unity module.

The 50-year-old astronaut said he remembered "watching the original 'Star Trek' series and, like many of my NASA co-workers, was inspired by the idea of people from all nations coming together to explore space."

AP

In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, from left, Anton Yelchin as Chekov, Chis Pine as James T. Kirk, Simon Pegg as Scotty, Karl Urban as Bones, John Cho as Sulu and Zoe Saldana as Ohura are shown in a scene from, "Star Trek."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Penelope Cruz sidelined by food poisoning

CANNES, France (AP)—Penelope Cruz has had to miss an event at the Cannes Film Festival after suffering food poisoning. Weinstein Co. boss Harvey Weinstein broke the news to reporters Monday at an event to promote her forthcoming musical "Nine." Cruz had been due to appear, but Weinstein said she was ill with "some sort of food poisoning" and was seeing a doctor. Cruz stars in Pedro Almodovar's "Broken Embraces," which is due to have its Cannes premiere on Tuesday. "Nine" is directed by Rob Marshall and also stars Daniel Day-Lewis, Marion Cotillard and Nicole Kidman.

Atty.: Blagojevich's wife mulling reality TV spot

CHICAGO (AP)—An attorney says the wife of ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY'-uh-vich) is considering reality TV after her indicted husband was barred from traveling to Costa Rica to be on a show. Blagojevich attorney Sheldon Sorosky said Monday that NBC has offered Patti Blagojevich a spot on "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here," but she hasn't reached a deal. NBC spokesman Gary Mednick says the network has no immediate comment. Sorosky says he has "no idea" whether Patti Blagojevich will agree to be on the show. A federal judge has barred the former governor from leaving the country to do the show pending his political corruption trial in Chicago.

'Law & Order' renewed for record-tying 20th season

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC is renewing "Law & Order" for a record-tying 20th season. People familiar with NBC's plans say the network is set to announce its fall schedule Tuesday and the durable crime drama will be on it. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the decision. "Law & Order" will stand with "Gunsmoke" as TV's longest-running prime-time drama. The Western aired from 1955 to 1975 on CBS.

Lee Solters, publicist for Frank Sinatra and others, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Longtime Hollywood publicist Lee Solters has died. He was 89. Solters' namesake public relations firm says the New York native died at his West Hollywood, Calif. home on Monday morning. Solters represented some of entertainment's biggest stars, including Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Michael Jackson, Dolly Parton, the Muppets, Mae West and Led Zeppelin. Born in Brooklyn in 1919, Solters covered high school basketball for The New York Times before establishing his own publicity firm. He worked with Broadway productions, representing "Guys and Dolls," "Funny Girl" and 300 others. Solters is survived by his son and daughter, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

AP source: CBS will try 4 new dramas next year

NEW YORK (AP)—Julianna Margulies, Jenna Elfman, Christopher O'Donnell and LL Cool J are among the stars who have landed new series on CBS' schedule next season.

The nation's most popular network will introduce six new series, according to someone close to CBS' scheduling process who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak about the new schedule.

The network releases its schedule Wednesday, following announcements by Fox, ABC and NBC Monday and Tuesday.

CBS will try two new medical dramas, although former "ER" star Margulies isn't involved in either of them. She'll be back in Chicago, though, home of the fictional County General hospital. She's in the cast of "The Good Wife," about a woman forced to go back to work as a lawyer when her district attorney husband is sent to prison.

One medical drama is "Miami Trauma," about a team of surgeons who try to save patients who have less than an hour to live. "Three Rivers," with Julia Ormond, is about organ donations.

CBS will spin off "NCIS," which has quietly become one of its top series over the past two years. The characters in the established series will be used to set up the story of a former Navy SEAL who works in the NCIS undercover unit in Los Angeles. O'Donnell and rapper LL Cool J are both in this series.

The network has a small but successful group of sitcoms, and will add only one next year: "Accidentally on Purpose" features Elfman in a story about a 39-year-old woman who gets pregnant from a one-night stand and decides to raise the baby alone.

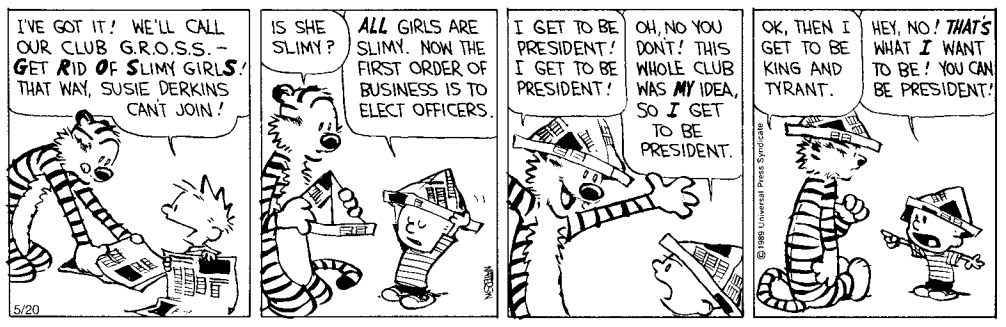
CBS has also picked up a hidden-camera series, `Undercover Boss," based on a British show about a company executive who goes by disguise to work alongside his employees.

It's unclear which of these series will go on in the fall and which are midseason replacements. CBS is expected to begin notifying current series of their fate on Tuesday.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE GOT IT! WE'LL CALL OUR CLUB G.R.O.S.S. - GET RID OF SLIMY GIRLS! THAT WAY, SUSIE DERKINS CAN'T JOIN!
IS SHE SLIMY?
ALL GIRLS ARE SLIMY. NOW THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO ELECT OFFICERS.
I GET TO BE PRESIDENT! I GET TO BE PRESIDENT!
OH, NO YOU DON'T! THIS WHOLE CLUB WAS MY IDEA, SO I GET TO BE PRESIDENT.
OK, THEN I GET TO BE KING AND TYRANT.
HEY, NO! THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO BE! YOU CAN BE PRESIDENT!
5/20
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate

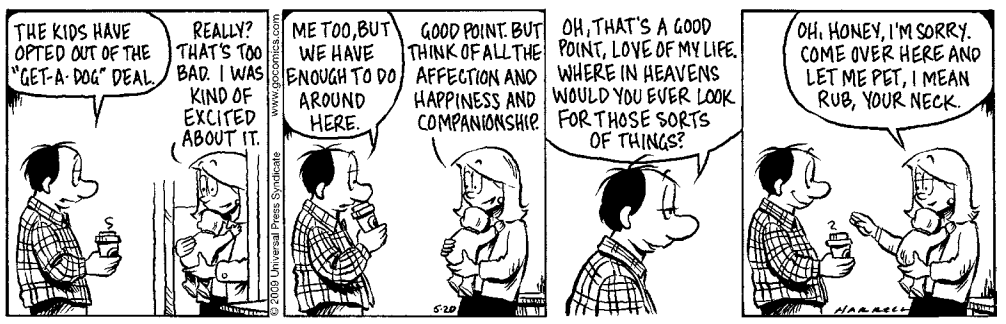
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A PICNIC!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
UNLESS YOU'RE THOSE PEOPLE!
HEY! BRING THAT BACK!
Text GARFIELD to 22848 (US ONLY)
JIM DAVIS 5-20

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THE KIDS HAVE OPTED OUT OF THE "GET-A-DOG" DEAL.
REALLY? THAT'S TOO BAD. I WAS KIND OF EXCITED ABOUT IT.
ME TOO, BUT WE HAVE ENOUGH TO DO AROUND HERE.
GOOD POINT. BUT THINK OF ALL THE AFFECTION AND HAPPINESS AND COMPANIONSHIP.
OH, THAT'S A GOOD POINT. LOVE OF MY LIFE. WHERE IN HEAVENS WOULD YOU EVER LOOK FOR THOSE SORTS OF THINGS?
OH, HONEY, I'M SORRY. COME OVER HERE AND LET ME PET, I MEAN RUB, YOUR NECK.
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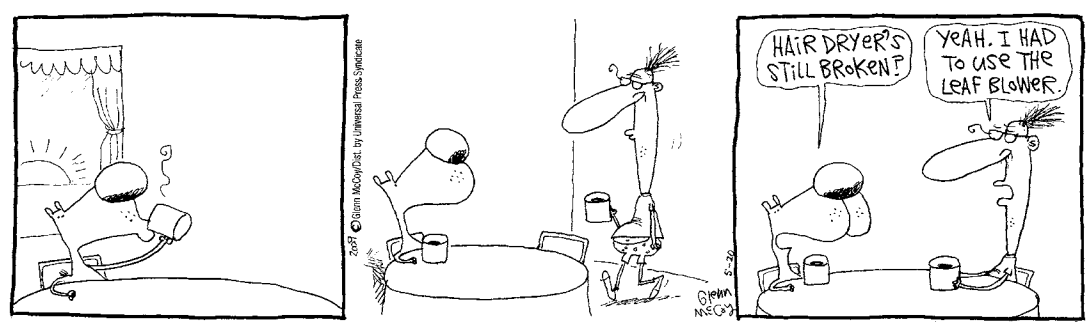
www.gocomics.com
5-20

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Bottlenose kin
5 Winter ailment
8 Reed instrument
12 Lummox
13 — -relief
14 Industrial region of Germany
15 Household arachnid
17 Actress Argento
18 Old photo shade
19 Copies
21 Skin abnormality
24 Vast expanse
25 North American peninsula, for short
28 Persia, now
30 Prized possession
33 Ostrich's cousin
34 Pizza dough
35 Ms. Thurman
36 USO audience
37 For fear that
38 Call a halt to
39 Skater Babilonia
41 Racetrack "helper"
43 Not digital, as a watch
46 Expire, as a subscription
50 Mongolian desert
51 U.S. area where industry once thrived
54 Tel —
55 Cleo's slayer
56 Slender
57 Assess
58 Chesapeake, e.g.
59 Exile isle

DOWN
1 Automaker Ransom Eli —
2 Libertine
3 Point
4 Theseus' land
5 Grp. that caught Dillinger
6 Long. crosser
7 Secondhand
8 Speechify
9 Work really hard (for)
10 Columbus is there
11 History chapters
16 Has permission
20 "Money — everything"
22 Paddock papa
23 Have faith in
25 Plead
26 Parisian pal
27 Very slightly
29 Regarding
31 Comic Philips
32 Chart
34 Advertising award
38 Not wobbly
40 Breathing
42 Last (Abbr.)
43 Culture medium
44 PBS science show
45 Snatch
47 Rind
48 Thick chunk
49 Sicilian spouter
52 — Today
53 Agent

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	I	E	S	■	G	E	M	■	F	A	C	E
A	N	T	I	■	L	E	I	■	S	N	O	W
S	N	A	P	P	E	R	S	■	H	E	R	E
■	■	■	H	I	E	■	D	R	A	W	E	R
S	H	O	O	T	■	B	E	A	R	■	■	■
T	O	R	N	■	F	L	A	P	P	E	R	S
E	E	C	■	O	R	A	L	S	■	V	I	E
W	R	A	P	P	E	R	S	■	M	E	S	A
■	■	■	L	A	N	E	■	P	A	N	E	L
T	A	M	A	L	E	■	P	E	G	■	■	■
I	C	O	N	■	T	R	A	P	P	E	R	S
E	R	S	E	■	I	O	N	■	I	L	I	E
R	E	S	T	■	C	B	S	■	E	L	B	E

Yesterday's answer 5-20

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18					■	■	19	20				
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24			■	■
25	26	27		■	28		29		■	30	31	32
33			■	34					■	35		
36			■	37				■	38			
■	■	39	40		■	41		42		■	■	■
43	44				45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50				■	51	52	53					
54					55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Busta Rhymes, 37; Bronson Pinchot, 50; Cher, 63; Joe Cocker, 65

Happy Birthday: Not everything will be disclosed and the guessing game will keep you on your toes. Stick to what you know works and avoid all temptation. It's your life and you must take charge of what you do, say and allow. Show your strength, not your weakness. Your numbers are 5, 14, 21, 25, 29, 33, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let your emotions lead you down the wrong path. You must keep your feet planted firmly on the ground if you want to make the most of the situation you face. A personal connection can be made. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll be surprised to learn that things aren't as they appear. A secret that has been kept from you will be divulged unintentionally. Do what you can with the information but don't get anyone in trouble. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Follow through with your plans instead of waiting for someone else to do the work. You will get far more satisfaction and credit in the end. An unusual prospect will be made available on the recommendation of someone you least expect. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll have trouble negotiating a deal. Don't spend on someone or something that isn't likely to bring you a return. Stick to basics and you will avoid getting swept up into someone else's fever. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't sit idle when there is so much you can do. Plan your next trip or get involved in a new hobby. Take control, make things happen and, before you know it, you'll be in charge and back on the road to victory. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Unwise purchases will leave you short at month's end. Avoid impulsive actions that will cost you. Trying to buy love will not bring you the satisfaction you are looking for. A friend or colleague will offer you false hope regarding a position. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get involved in a partnership or teamwork that allows you to meet new people and experience new activities. If you take advantage of others' enthusiasm, you may get left behind. This is not the time to let your laid back Libra qualities take over. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make it clear to anyone dragging you down or complaining that you have no time to waste on trivial matters. Take control. It's your responsible attitude that will bring you the assistance required to finish what you start. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put some time and effort into your surroundings. If you can make your place more entertaining or comfortable, you will want to spend more time there. A love relationship will take a positive turn. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have to watch what you say. It will be easy to offend someone and even easier to cause a ruckus. Getting out with someone you trust who has more experience than you will be helpful in teaching you how to handle others. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): If you play your cards right, you can move into a new line of work or a study program that will lead to a brighter future. An old love or friend will want to come back into your life. Take it very slowly. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Someone around you has a hidden agenda. Before you offer your time or services, make sure you take care of your own personal business. Don't be afraid to change your mind, especially if it will protect you from failure. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a drive that works behind the scenes to bring you greatness. You have potential, timing and what it takes to be first. You are a driving force.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	1	6				9	7
		6	7	2		4	1	
				5		3		
			9	8	6			
		9				7		
8	4		2				5	
3							4	
	9	5	8				7	
			3	6			2	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	6	2	4	3	7	1	8	9
9	3	4	1	8	2	6	7	5
1	8	7	9	6	5	4	3	2
2	9	6	7	5	8	3	4	1
3	7	1	2	4	6	9	5	8
4	5	8	3	1	9	2	6	7
7	4	3	8	9	1	5	2	6
6	2	9	5	7	4	8	1	3
8	1	5	6	2	3	7	9	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WIRING MONEY Solution: 8 letters

E	P	(C)	I	N	O	R	T	C	E	L	E	T	L	F
C	H	(A)	R	T	O	N	A	M	E	X	N	O	A	I
I	O	(S)	R	O	U	I	S	A	C	E	C	S	N	N
F	N	(H)	C	O	T	E	T	H	G	A	T	V	O	W
F	E	S	C	O	T	A	A	A	T	T	E	D	I	O
O	P	C	U	U	N	N	R	I	N	S	S	E	T	R
T	A	R	N	R	G	F	O	E	T	I	E	P	A	L
S	Y	I	O	E	A	N	I	M	P	L	T	O	N	D
O	M	K	S	T	E	N	E	R	B	O	A	S	R	W
P	E	N	E	N	E	N	C	A	M	D	R	I	E	I
E	N	I	I	V	T	C	I	E	F	A	E	T	T	D
R	T	L	N	E	A	L	T	R	U	S	T	B	N	E
S	N	O	S	A	E	S	R	E	V	O	R	I	I	B
O	C	C	A	R	D	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	O	T
N	S	T	O	R	E	D	I	W	N	O	I	T	A	N

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Account, Agent, Card, Cash, Confirmation, Convenient, Debit, Debt, Deposit, Destination, Electronic, Exchange, Fast, Insurance, International, Investment, Link, Location, Minutes, Name, Nationwide, Online, Operator, Overseas, Payment, Person, Phone, Post Office, Protected, Rates, Reliable, Save, Store, Student, Trust, Worldwide

Yesterday's Answer: Station

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to **WONDERWORD**, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

BAR FOR SALE
Club Billy Bones
Located in Garapan
• Complete turnkey opportunity
• Serious inquiries only
Contact Mary @ 287-2499

NO MORE ILLEGAL TAXI!
TAXI SERVICE
$3.00 per person
24-HOUR SERVICE-285-5549

WHATZIT Solution: Short end of the stick

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSURE

DOKO (SAIPAN) INC- P.O. BOX 501847
SAIPAN, MP 96950 HAS CLOSED ITS LOCAL OFFICE.
ANY OUTSTANDING UNPAID CHARGES SHOULD BE SENT TO ABOVE ADDRESS BY **06/01/09.**

SALES REPRESENTATIVE FOR GUAM

Responsibilities:

- The candidate will be responsible for direct sales of bakery products to retail stores and other outlets from existing accounts to acquiring new/potential customers.
- Candidate will be responsible also in carrying out direct marketing activities
- Travels throughout assigned territories to sell products to establishments and to call on regular and prospective customers to solicit orders.

Requirements:

- Minimum of 2 years experience in sales related occupation
- Ability to meet monthly sales goals
- Candidate must possess excellent customer service and communications skills
- Must have good presentation and strong negotiation skills
- Fast learner, energetic, honest, dependable
- Great team player and hardworking
- Can work with limited supervision
- With valid driver's license and with good driving record
- Can drive Heavy Duty Delivery Truck
- Can lift a minimum of 20-25 lbs.
- Full time position available
- US Citizen and willing to relocate to Guam

Interested applicants, please email your resume with picture at employment201@gmail.com. Interview invitations will sometimes be sent via email, please check your email regularly.

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
POST OFFICE BOX 1547, ROTA, MP 96951
PHONE: 1.670.532.7242
EMAIL: email@rotacasino.com

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR 25 MAY 2009.

DATE: Monday, 25 May 2009

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
FY 2010 Budget
VII. New Business
None
VIII. Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ DIEGO M. SONGAO, Chairman — 25 May 2009

LOST PASSPORT
Name: Jin, Yuhua
Passport No: G06148490
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: Jan. 27, 1972
If found, please call 483-8085.

LOST PASSPORT
Name: Jiang, Zhejun
Passport No: 149240293
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: Feb. 6, 1980
If found, please call 483-8085.

WANTED
A.I.S.S.
is in urgent need of
EXPERIENCED TEACHERS
for overseas hiring (will teach in Pakistan); $1,000 bonus upon arrival, free insurance, free boarding house, free taxes, free round trip ticket and free transportation. Please call 789-7920 to schedule interview. Employer will be here on May 19-21, 2009.

ENTERTAINMENT
USSP 16th Year Anniversary!
Island Style Jams
Guest singers: Guam, Palau, Chuuk, and Pohnpei
May 29th & May 30th, 2009

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL
Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

MOVING SALE
TV, tables, clothes, home appliances, kitchenware, curtains, toys, books, bags, shoes, and more! Call 2342220. From May 16-25, 2009.

FOR SALE - COMMERCIAL
USSP Club, Garapan. The local crowd spot. On Sale $75000. Or Best Offer. Grab a partner and be the next owner! Call Rose @ 286-7653/233-1984. Leaving island.

WHATZIT?™
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

BATON

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Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

SUPREME COURT — THE JUDICIARY — COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BAR EXAMINATION

The Northern Mariana Islands Bar Examinations (MBE, MPT, and Essay) will be administered on Wednesday, July 29, 2009 and Thursday, July 30, 2009. Interested applicants may obtain the application form and necessary information from the Bar Administrator by calling telephone no. (670) 236-9800, visiting the judiciary's website at **http://www.justice.gov.mp,** or by writing to P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950.

All applications and required fees must be submitted to the Bar Administrator no later than May 29, 2009.

Dated this 8th day of May, 2009.

NORA V. BORJA
Bar Administrator

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Is seeking qualified applicants for a

KINDERGARTEN TEACHING POSITION

- **2 years teaching experience preferred**
- **BA, BS, or B.Ed. required**

Please submit resume with transcripts to the school office or by email to dalejsis@yahoo.com

---

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
PSS IFB 09-014

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, and delivery of laptops for WSR Elementary School. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB09-014"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than May 26, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer or email to the following address: florian@saipan.com.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-017

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Food Service Management Companies (FSMC's) to provide food services for the School Breakfast and Lunch Program at all eligible schools on the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota for school year 2009-2010.

Beginning May 8, 2009, the detailed specifications are available on CD-ROM at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-017" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 3, 2009, 3:00 p.m. Any proposal received after this date and time will not be accepted.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m. on May 22, 3009 in the PSS Commissioner's Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building.

Procedural questions shall be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax to 664.3791 or e-mailed to "florian@saipan.com".

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public Shool System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-015

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, of **Laptops and LCD Projectors** for classroom teachers, Counselors and program managers. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-015"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

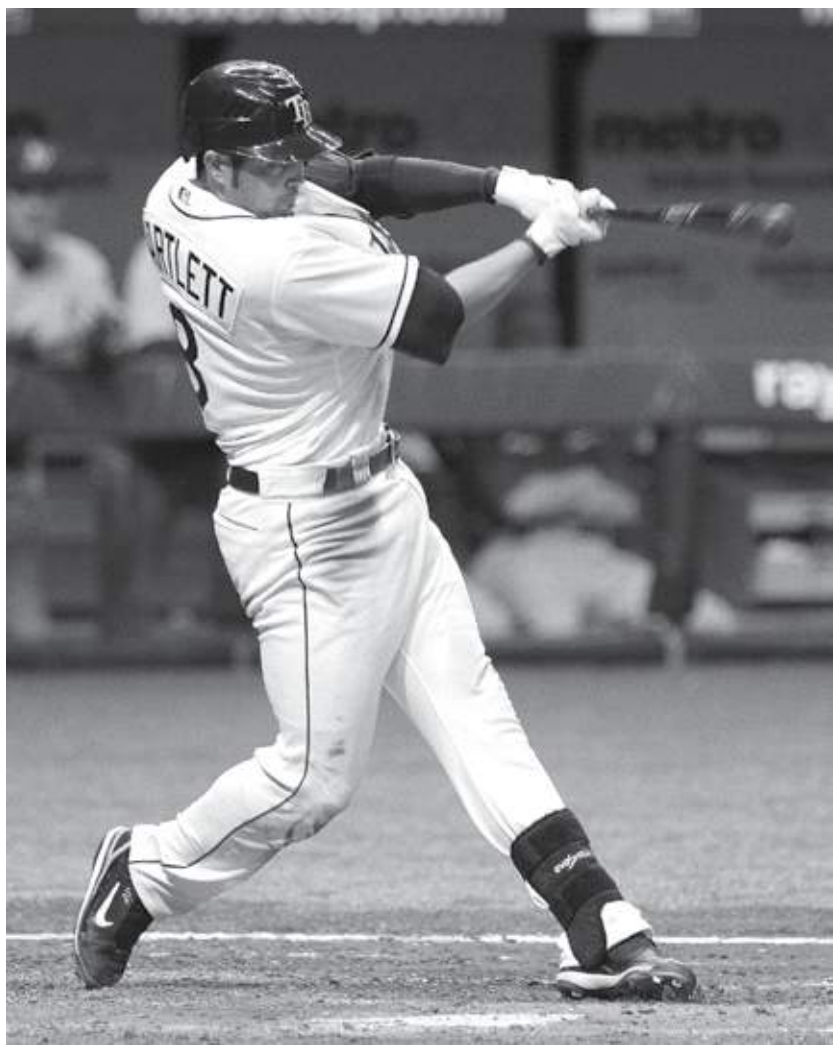
Bartlett leads Rays over A's for 4th straight win

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Jason Bartlett drove in a career-high five runs and Tampa Bay beat struggling Oakland 13-4 on Monday night for a season-best four-game winning streak.

Rookie Jeff Niemann (4-3) allowed four runs and eight hits in eight innings to win for the fourth time in his last five decisions. He struck out three and walked none in the longest outing of his career.

Bartlett went 3 for 3 with a walk to raise his batting average to .384. He had a two-run single off Sean Gallagher (1-2) in the first, as well as a run-scoring triple in the fifth and a two-run single in the sixth.

The A's, swept at Detroit last weekend, have been outscored 47-13 during a four-game losing streak in which their starting pitchers have yielded 31 runs (23 earned) in 13 innings.



AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Jason Bartlett lines a two-run, sixth inning single off Oakland Athletics pitcher Gio Gonzalez during a baseball game Monday, May 18, 2009, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Angels 10, Mariners 6

At Seattle, Torii Hunter hit a three-run double in a five-run fifth inning and Kendry Morales homered twice, rallying John Lackey and Los Angeles.

Lackey (1-0) won in his second start in three days. The Angels' ace returned from a strained forearm Saturday for his season debut only to get ejected after just two pitches for throwing behind and then hitting Texas' Ian Kinsler.

Lackey went five innings and allowed five runs as the Angels ended a three-game losing streak.

Jarrod Washburn (3-3) and two relievers allowed Los Angeles to score a season-high run total. Seattle has lost 11 of 14.

Juan Rivera led off the fifth by homering to left. Erick Aybar's RBI infield single trimmed Seattle's lead to 4-3. After a walk to load the bases, Hunter cleared them with his double.

Yankees 7, Twins 6

At New York, Mark Teixeira homered from both sides of the plate, combining with Alex Rodriguez for back-to-back drives in a six-run first inning and New York completed a four-game sweep of Minnesota.

After stringing together three straight walk-off wins for the first time since 1972, the Yankees overcame a 2-0 first-inning deficit and hung on to extend their winning streak to a season-high six.

Andy Pettitte (4-1) won consecutive starts for the first time this year, allowing four runs and 12 hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Justin Morneau had four hits and Michael Cuddyer and Denard Span homered for the Twins.

Glen Perkins (1-3) lasted just nine batters and got two outs, allowing six runs and seven hits. Minnesota dropped to 4-12 on the road but is 14-9 at home.

Blue Jays 3, White Sox 2

At Toronto, Alex Rios hit a go-ahead triple in the eighth inning Monday and Toronto completed a four-game sweep of Chicago.

Jim Thome tied it in the top of the eighth with a two-run homer, the 548th of his career, but Toronto rallied against Octavio Dotel (1-1).

Chicago lost its season-high fifth straight and has dropped 10 in a row at Toronto.

Dotel had not allowed a run in 14 games this season, a span of 12 1-3 innings, when he relieved in the eighth with the score 2-all.

Jose Bautista drew a leadoff walk, moved up on a sacrifice and stole third. Rios' triple skipped past a diving Scott Podsednik in center field.

Jesse Carlson (1-2) got the win despite allowing Thome's homer. Scott Downs earned his fifth save in as many chances.

Dodgers 3, Cubs 2

At Los Angeles, New York, which had the go-ahead run taken away on an appeal play after Ryan Church missed third base in the top of the 11th inning, committed two of its five errors in the bottom half and Los Angeles beat the Mets.

Church singled with two outs against Ramon Troncoso (1-0) and came around on Angel Pagan's drive to the fence in right-center. But Church missed third base and the Dodgers appealed. So instead of an RBI triple, Pagan settled for a single, his fourth hit.

Mark Loretta walked to open the Dodgers 11th. Xavier Paul's fly ball to left-center against Brian Stokes (1-2) fell between Pagan and Carlos Beltran, who was charged with an error. An intentional walk loaded the bases and Rafael Furcal flied out to shallow left with New York employing a five-man infield.

Orlando Hudson hit a routine grounder to first, but Reed, who entered in the 10th as a pinch hitter, tried for the force at home and threw wildly past catcher Ramon Castro.

Brewers 8, Cardinals 4

At St. Louis, Braden Looper carried a two-hitter into the seventh inning and Mat Gamel hit a three-run homer in his first career start as Milwaukee completed a three-game sweep.

Jason Kendall of the Brewers became the eighth full-time catcher to reach 2,000 hits.

Milwaukee has won 12 of 14 overall and 10 of 11 over the Cardinals the last two seasons. They won their sixth straight hours after learning Rickie Weeks will miss the rest of the season with a wrist injury.

Craig Counsell, who replaced Weeks in the leadoff spot and at second base, was 1 for 6.

Kyle Lohse (3-3) working on two days' rest after working two innings in Friday's rainout, trailed 4-0 after four innings. Colby Rasmus and Skip Schumaker hit two-run homers in the seventh for St. Louis.

Looper (4-2) gave up three hits and three runs, one earned, in 6-plus innings. He is 62-60 for his career but is 21-13 with a 3.52 ERA at Busch Stadium.

Rockies 5, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Colorado's Jason Marquis outdueled Atlanta's Derek Lowe in front of the smallest paid crowd at Turner Field since the stadium opened in 1997.

Marquis (5-3) scattered five hits and allowed one run in eight innings to end a two-start losing streak.

Lowe (5-2) was attempting to become the NL's first six-game winner. He allowed two runs, three hits and one walk in eight innings, losing for the first time in five starts.

Colorado had lost three out of four and seven of 10.

The Braves have lost two straight and three of four. Atlanta dropped to 6-11 at Turner Field in front of 15,364.

Dexter Fowler, who gave Colorado a 1-0 lead in third with an RBI groundout, doubled leading off the sixth and made it 2-1 on Todd Helton's fielder's choice grounder.

The Braves tied it in the sixth on a double-play grounder by Casey Kotchman.

The Rockies scored three runs in the ninth.

Pirates 12, Nationals 7

At Washington, Washington made four errors—all on routine plays—and the bullpen had another lead-blowing implosion in the loss to Pittsburgh.

A five-run sixth inning led Pittsburgh to its third straight win and ended an eight-game road losing streak.

Ross Ohlendorf (5-3) won despite allowing four extra-base hits in a five-run fifth. Craig Monroe hit a three-run homer, and Jack Wilson got four hits for the Pirates.

Washington has lost five straight despite scoring at least five runs in every game. The Nationals entered the game with 37 errors, five more than any team in the majors.

Washington reliever Garrett Mock (0-2) had a walk, a wild pitch, a hit batter and allowed Wilson's game-tying two-RBI double in 15 pitches in the sixth.

Nick Johnson and Ryan Zimmerman hit back-to-back homers in the fifth for the Nationals, extending Zimmerman's streak in reaching base safely to 36 games.

Helton hopes to reverse ruling for 2,000th hit

ATLANTA (AP)—If Colorado manager Clint Hurdle has his way, Todd Helton will have his 2,000th hit even before the Rockies play their next game.

Hurdle called the press box after the Rockies' 5-1 victory over Atlanta on Monday night to request a meeting with official scorer Jack Wilkinson after Helton's hard grounder between second and third in the ninth inning was charged as an error to shortstop Yunel Escobar.

According to Hurdle, Wilkinson agreed to meet before Tuesday night's game.

"That was a smoking ball," Hurdle said. "It was no error, but we're moving on."

Helton finished 0-for-4 and needs one hit to become the 255th player to reach 2,000.

Hurdle called the press box when "E-6" was flashed on the scoreboard.

"I do this for players all the time when I think it's inappropriate," Hurdle said. "I have to take the initiative for my players."

Wilkinson was not available for comment after Hurdle finished meeting with reporters and the Rockies' clubhouse closed.

Replays showed that Escobar never touched the ball, which bounced past his glove and into left-center field. Escobar was not available to speak with reporters in the Braves' clubhouse.

"I've never seen that (kind of) ball (ruled) an error before," Helton said. "All that matters is that we won the game. It didn't matter."

Mike Smith won't ride Mine That Bird in Belmont

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird is in need of yet another jockey.

Mike Smith, who rode the gelding to a second-place finish in Saturday's Preakness Stakes, won't ride him in the Belmont Stakes on June 6 because of a previous commitment.

Smith is already set to ride Madeo in the $300,000 Charles Whittingham Memorial Handicap at Hollywood Park that day.

The Hall of Fame rider is sticking with Madeo out of his loyalty to owners Jerry and Ann Moss and trainer John Shirreffs. Together, they won the 2005 Kentucky Derby on Giacomo, who like Mine That Bird, was a 50-1 long shot.

"It was something that was already done beforehand and it's not going to change," Smith told The Associated Press by phone on Monday. "They're my No. 1 and no one else. It would've been nice if the timing was different, but I have no regrets whatsoever."

That means Calvin Borel, who rode Mine That Bird to a stunning victory in the Derby, could get back on him for the Belmont if Rachel Alexandra doesn't run.

Borel opted to ride Rachel Alexandra in the Preakness, and she became the first filly in 85 years to win the second leg of the Triple Crown. Co-owner Jess Jackson has not yet decided if she will run in the 1 1/2-mile Belmont.

"There's never been a situation like this in history. This is wild," Smith said, referring to the multiple jockey changes. "This has nothing to do with respect for the horse. I think everyone knows he's for real. It's just the way it is."

Brad Pegram, Smith's agent, told Chip Woolley Jr., who trains Mine That Bird, of the jockey's decision on Monday. Woolley had been planning to use Smith in the Belmont, regardless of whether Rachel Alexandra runs.

"It's kind of funny," Woolley said Monday. "You'd think if you get a horse this good, you'd keep one, but apparently not."

The trainer said he's heard from the agents of several riders who are interested in taking over the mount, but he hasn't made up his mind. Woolley indicated that he won't wait to see whether Rachel Alexandra goes on to the Belmont.

"We're going to make a decision pretty quickly," he said. "Patience is probably the No. 1 concern. Is somebody patient and will they wait and see how things develop? We'll just have to see how it goes."

Smith said he'll be rooting long-distance for Mine That Bird on Belmont day.

"I admire that little horse so much," he said. "Calvin and I would probably argue who is his biggest fan. We're both big fans."

Woolley and Mine That Bird arrived back at Churchill Downs on Monday evening after a 9 1/2-hour drive from Baltimore.

"The trip was great," Woolley said. "He looks good. He come off the trailer pretty relaxed and looks all right, so we're pretty happy with where he's at right now."

Mine That Bird will head back to the track on Tuesday to resume training for the Belmont.

After gritty run, Rockets face big questions

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets ran out of All Stars before they ran out of steam in the playoffs.

Missing their top two players and a backup center who happens to be the NBA's second all-time shot blocker, the Rockets pushed the Los Angeles Lakers to the brink in their second-round series before losing by 19 in Sunday's Game 7.

Afterward, the Lakers complimented Houston for its grit and heart—but that wasn't what the Rockets felt like hearing.

"We just lost so we're upset," said forward Luis Scola. "But I think in a couple days or couple weeks, we'll be happy we were able to reach what we achieved. We just need to keep moving forward."

Where the Rockets go from here depends on the health of stars Tracy McGrady and Yao Ming, and whether the team can re-sign Ron Artest.

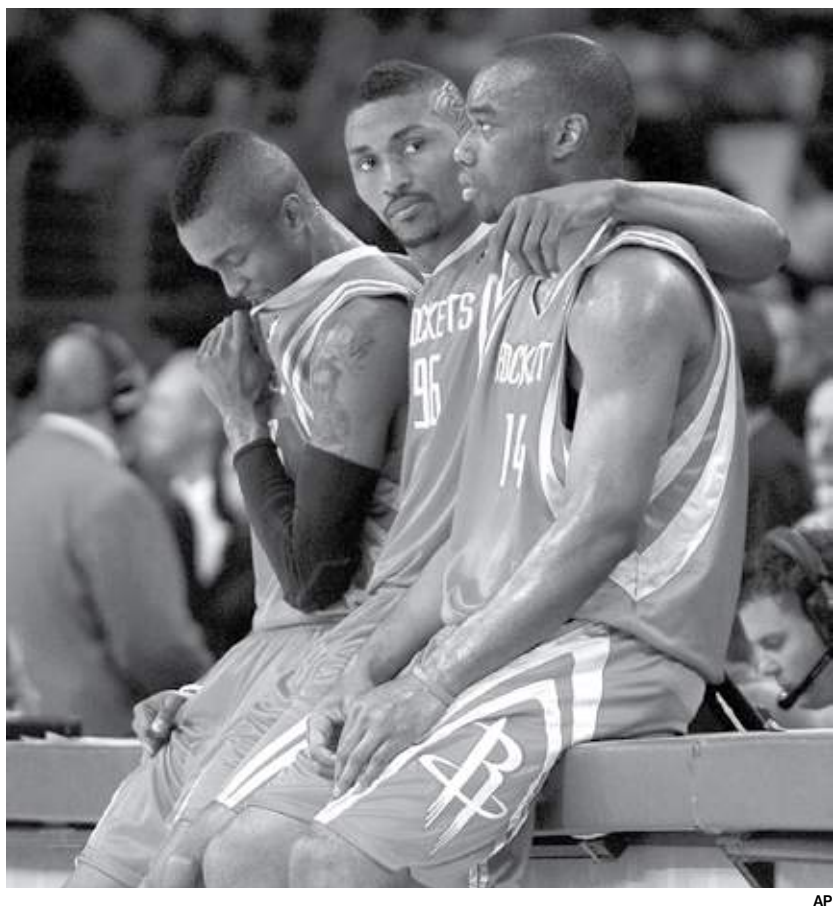
The Rockets and their fans envisioned a championship run last summer when they acquired the unpredictable Artest to form a Houston version of the Boston Celtics' Big Three.

But the enthusiasm diminished when McGrady admitted before training camp that his knee and shoulder were already aching. The seven-time All-Star played in only 35 games and finally opted for season-ending microfracture surgery in February.

McGrady, a two-time scoring champion, has one season left on his contract that will pay him over $23 million next season. The Rockets are hoping he'll return by January, but he turns 30 on Sunday and the results are mixed on players coming back after undergoing the same type of surgery.

The Rockets went 21-8 after McGrady bowed out, advancing to the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 1997, fueling the notion that the team was better without him.

Rick Adelman, runner-up to Cleveland's Mike Brown in the coach of the year voting, shot down that suggestion.



AP

Houston Rockets' Von Wafer, left, Ron Artest and Carl Landry sit arm-in-arm in the closing seconds of Game 7 of an NBA Western Conference playoff basketball series against the Los Angeles Lakers, Sunday, May 17, 2009, in Los Angeles.

"We didn't have the Tracy McGrady from two years ago," Adelman said. "He was playing on half a leg. He was trying. It was really unfair."

Yao avoided injuries through the regular season and the first-round series with Portland, then broke his troublesome left foot in Game 3 against the Lakers, raising the same old questions about his sturdiness.

The Rockets said Yao will only miss 8-12 weeks and the hairline fracture will not require surgery. Like McGrady, Yao also has one guaranteed year left on his contract, including a player option for the 2010-11 season.

If Houston has a pressing need, it's finding a backup for Yao. Dikembe Mutombo, who filled in capably for Yao over the past five seasons, tore a knee tendon in the playoff series with Portland and retired after 18 years.

While they wait for their stars to heal, the team needs to decide what to do with Artest.

The temperamental forward was Houston's second-leading scorer and complemented Shane Battier as a second lockdown defender during the regular season. He was up and down in the playoffs, though, shooting well in one game and taking too many ill-advised shots in the next.

Artest signed a one-year contract last summer and he was asked during the Lakers series if the artwork in his hair meant that he would be back next season. The hairdo seemed a clear indication of loyalty, with "HOUSTON" carved into one side and a Rockets logo on the other.

Artest wouldn't say if he'd return.

"I'm just having fun," said Artest. "I've been having fun this whole season. I didn't want to stop now. Obviously, I love Houston, though. No question."

The rest of the roster is set and full of potential.

Aaron Brooks played well after taking over at point guard from veteran Rafer Alston, who was traded to Orlando in late February. Brooks was inconsistent in the playoffs, but also had some eye-popping games, scoring 34 in one victory over the Lakers.

Scola continued to develop into one of the league's top power forwards, averaging 13 points and nine rebounds during the regular season. He was also the most durable Rocket this season and started every game.

Team chemistry was also a strength and now they've added valuable playoff experience.

"This was a huge milestone for our organization," said Battier. "We had so many young players. Going to the second round in the playoffs, going to a Game 7 and seeing what it's about—that's experience you cannot buy. So it's no question, all of our guys, especially our young guys, will be much better because of it."

NBA BRIEFS

Nuggets, WWE in smackdown over arena conflict

Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers are scheduled to be at the Pepsi Center in Denver next Monday night. Problem is, so are John Cena and a bunch of wrestlers. World Wrestling Entertainment says it is booked at the arena for an episode of Monday Night Raw, the same night the Nuggets are slated to host the Lakers in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals. WWE spokesman Robert Zimmerman says the organization secured the Pepsi Center last Aug. 15 and has already sold more than 10,000 tickets for the event. He says the organization expects a sellout, with tickets ranging from $20 to $70. "Even though the Denver Nuggets had a strong team this year and were projected to make the playoffs, obviously Nuggets and Pepsi Center owner Stan Kroenke did not have enough faith in his own team to hold the May 25th date for a potential playoff game," WWE chairman Vince McMahon said in a statement. ***(AP)***

Fisher wins extension against alleged stalker

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers guard Derek Fisher has won an extended restraining order against a woman he says stalked and harassed him. A Los Angeles judge on Monday granted a three-year extension of an order issued last month against Symone Fisher. The 40-year-old woman is barred from contact with Fisher or his family until May 2012. In court papers, Derek Fisher claimed the woman—who legally changed her last name to Fisher—began harassing him in 2001 by sending letters and e-mails suggesting they were married. More recently, he says she showed up near his home. Neither Fisher nor the woman appeared in court.

Source: 76ers to talk to Boston assistant coach

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers will interview Boston Celtics assistant coach Tom Thibodeau for their vacant head coaching position. The interview was confirmed by a person familiar with the decision who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because an announcement has not been made. The date of the interview was not immediately known. Thibodeau, known as a defensive-minded coach, just completed his second season as an assistant to Boston coach Doc Rivers. Thibodeau was an assistant coach for the Sixers in 1993-94. The Sixers already have interviewed former Wizards coach Eddie Jordan. The Philadelphia job became vacant when Tony DiLeo stepped down last week and returned to the front office.

Gruden replaces Kornheiser on MNF

By BEN WALKER
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Monday Night Football tried a Cowboy, a comic, a columnist and a Cosell. To fill the latest vacancy in the broadcast booth, ESPN went with a winning formula—a coach, and a Super Bowl champion at that.

Fresh off getting fired by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Jon Gruden was hired to replace Tony Kornheiser this season.

The snarl-for-snarky swap came after Kornheiser cited a fear of flying in his decision to leave after three years. The same fear beset one of the most popular MNF announcers ever, John Madden, who retired from his TV career last month.

Gruden has spent his entire adult life coaching football, and said this job would give him an "opportunity to see things from a different angle."

"Kind of like it's halftime of my life," the 45-year-old Gruden said Monday on a conference call. "Unfortunately, I don't know many things about other aspects of life."

Gruden won the 2003 title with the Bucs, and there's no telling how long he'll stay away from the field. Neither he nor Norby Williamson, ESPN's executive vice president of production, would directly answer how long Gruden's contract lasts, or whether he was free to leave for an NFL post if one is offered.

"Maybe I can hang in and keep this job for a while," Gruden said, later adding, "I dearly miss coaching."

Gruden will join Mike Tirico and Ron Jaworski when the show starts its 40th season this fall. Gruden will make his debut with a preseason game Aug. 13, a Super Bowl rematch between the Arizona Cardinals and Pittsburgh Steelers.

MNF has used all sorts of personalities over the years, dating to its debut on ABC. Gruden recalled watching in the days when Howard Cosell and Don Meredith shared the booth, and comedian Dennis Miller's stint led to Kornheiser's run.

Kornheiser will continue to appear on ESPN's "Pardon the Interruption."

"My fear of planes is legendary and sadly true," he said in a statement released by the network. "When I looked at the upcoming schedule it was the perfect storm that would've frequently moved me from the bus to the air."

"If I could handpick a replacement of a football guy, I would cast a net and drag in Jon Gruden," he said. "He is the two things you most want—smart and funny—and has the two things I don't—good hair and a tan."

Williamson emphasized it was Kornheiser's choice to leave, and said MNF did not consider trying to replace him with a nonfootball type.

"We were talking to Jon, he was out there," Williamson said. "When Tony made his decision, Jon was the guy."

Nicknamed "Chucky" for his striking resemblance to the horror film doll, Gruden said he felt he'd be able to mix the right blend of criticism, razzing and praise.

Gruden has been a vocal critic of ESPN in the past, specifically objecting to anonymously sourced reports by the network.

"I don't watch ESPN," he said in 2007. "These reports make me sick, really."

"There's a lot of reports out there," Gruden said. "I just wish some of these reports were verified."

NFL BRIEFS

Steelers' Harrison plans to skip White House

PITTSBURGH (AP)—James Harrison plans to pass on another trip to the White House with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Harrison, the NFL Defensive Player of the Year, says he'll skip the Super Bowl champion's visit to the White House to meet President Barack Obama on Thursday, just as he did when the Steelers were honored by President George W. Bush in June 2006. "I don't feel the need to go, actually," Harrison told Pittsburgh station WTAE-TV. "I don't feel like it's that big a deal to me." Harrison doesn't believe the invitation is all that special, saying if the Steelers hadn't beaten the Cardinals 27-23 with a last-minute rally, "He (Obama) would have invited Arizona." The Steelers had no comment Monday about Harrison's comments. Steelers chairman Dan Rooney was an early supporter of Obama's and has been nominated by him to be the U.S. ambassador to Ireland. Harrison is known for being an individualist whose on-field sullenness sometimes extends off the field as well.

Eagles defensive coordinator Johnson takes leave

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Johnson is taking an indefinite leave of absence while he continues treatment for cancer. Coach Andy Reid says Johnson "needs to concentrate all of his efforts on his recovery." The 67-year-old Johnson was diagnosed with melanoma in 2001. The team announced after the season that the cancer had returned and he had a tumor on his spine. Johnson underwent treatment and coached from a motorized cart during the team's first post-draft minicamp, which wrapped up earlier this month. Reid says Johnson is "struggling" but expressed hope that he would be able to return to the team soon. Sean McDermott will handle the defense in Johnson's absence.

X-Terminators slip past host Shirley's

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Advanced X-Terminors' Rodel Apostol is clobbered by a phalanx of Shirley's defenders during their game in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League last Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rocyl Ritual made crucial steals and baskets to lift Advanced X-Terminators to a 96-92 victory against Shirley's in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League last Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Ritual had two steals, a layup, and a pair of free throws to lead X-Terminators' come-from-behind victory.

Shirley's last held the lead at 92-91, on Jersh Angeles' split free throw, with 34 seconds left in the fourth quarter. Advanced inbounded the ball, but Angeles' sneaked in from the back of the receiver and stole the ball.

Shirley's moved the ball around, wasting several seconds of the clock before Jessie Nicdao's pass to Angeles at the top of the key was stolen by Ritual. Ritual then sprinted to their frontcourt and nailed a layup that gave X-Terminators the lead, 93-92, with 12 seconds left in the game.

Shirley's was out of timeouts and fell prey to X-Terminators' pressured defense, as Dindo Laxa lost the ball to Mike Olaitiman. Angeles then gave a preemptive foul, sending Olaitiman to the free throw line with the latter splitting his charities.

With three seconds left on the clock and Advanced ahead, 94-92, Shirley's inbounded the ball, but Ritual was there, anew to steal the leather. The long arms of Ritual were enough to deflect the pass intended for Angeles near the midcourt. Ritual then drew a foul from Angeles and the former sealed the win for X-Terminators, making both charities.

Olaitiman led all scorers with 33 points, while Rodel Apostol and Ritual chipped in 23 and 17 markers, respectively.

Fradel Sedillo paced Shirley's with 21 points, while Angeles and Laxa added 18 apiece.

The outcome of the Shirley's-Advanced game could have turned into the former's favor had not been for the host's poor free throw shooting. Shirley's went 7-for-21 from the foul line in the fourth period alone against Advanced's 11-for-17 clip.

Advanced 96 – Olaitiman 33, Apostol 23, Ritual 17, Relata 7, Capillan 7, Daprosa 5, Luna 2, Lontoc 2.

Shirley's 92 – Sedillo 21, Angeles 18, Laxa 18, Nicdao 11, Atienza 8, Drilon 6, Catungal 3, Merencilla 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-25, 46-45, 69-68, 96-92.

Gigolos, MDX nip foes in Navy Hill

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Garapan Gigolos and MDX Armatech boosted their finals bid in the Masters division of the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League after pulling of similar close wins last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Gigolos played against Jaypers in the curtain raiser and eked out a 66-64 victory, while MDX Armatech met Ebisuya in the second match and escaped with an 85-84 win. MDX and Gigolos now join pennant champion C.K. Legends to the next round with the teams to win two games advancing to the finals.

Melvin Villarin missed easy shots all night, but delivered in crunch time, making the game-winning free throws.

With four seconds left in the game, Villarin drove to the middle and drew a foul from William Opone. Villarin sank both charities and with one second left on the clock, the second-seeded Jaypers failed to put up a decent shot.

Gigolos were off to a slow start and were behind at the end of the first quarter, 7-14. Adonis Macoto and Edel Carino brought Gigolos back in the game in second quarter, combining for 16 of the team's 25 points.

Gigolos came out sluggish at the beginning of the second half, nailing only 10 points in the third, which ended with Jaypers ahead by nine, 42-51.

Abuy, who was held to three points in the first three quarters, made two treys in the fourth and the rest of Gigolos teamed up in grabbing the lead, 64-59, with less than two minutes left in the payoff canto.

Opone scored five straight points on a triple and two free throws to tie the game before committing a costly foul that sent Villarin to the stripe for the game-winning charities.

In the second game, Ian Castro made a free throw to force an overtime, while Joseph Galulu made a crucial steal to lift MDX past Ebisuya.

Ebisuya was ahead, 71-70, when Castro pulled up for a jumper and drew a foul from Robert Tamondong as time expired. Castro canned the first free throw, but missed the second one, failing to give MDX an outright win.

MDX had a one-point lead, 85-84, with eight seconds left in overtime, when Galulu picked the pocket of Allan Lazaga and wasted the clock to preserve the win.

First Game

Garapan 66 – Carino 14, Villarin 11, Macoto 10, Abuy 10, Dela Torre 8, Domingo 8, Galsote 7.

Jaypers 64 – Opone 24, Tobias 11, Peleno 10, Valdez 7, Villasan 6, Cultura 4, David 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-7, 32-34, 42-51, 66-64.

Second Game

MDX 85 – Martin 14, Samson 12, Montano 11, Castro 10, Malasarte 7, Canedo 7, Galulu 6, Sublemente 2, Arenas 2.

Ebisuya 84 – Viola 20, Santos 16, Sabino 15, Tamondong 10, Olivos 6, Jacob 4, Lazaga 2, Calma 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-16, 27-36, 49-54, 71-all, 85-84.

TWIN

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with an 11-10 victory.

Eric Tenorio led the D-9ers' win over Rock Steady, going 3-for-5 at the plate and scoring three runs and three RBIs. Bob Lizama, Jeff Tenorio, Wally Emul, and E.J. Tenorio had one RBI apiece. John Acosta went 2-for-3 and made three runs.

Jeff Tenorio went only 1-for-5 at the plate, but his single that drove Eric Tenorio home in the seventh inning gave D-9ers their 11th run and the needed cushion to thwart Rock Steady.

D-9ers led 11-8 after seven complete innings before a two-run double from Manny Sablan at the top of the eight inning moved Rock Steady within one, 10-11.

D-9ers failed to score at the bottom of the ninth, boosting Rock Steady's chances to steal the game.

Ben Sablan led off for Rock Steady at the top of the last inning and was beaten to first on a 6-3 putout play. Jon Mafnas suffered the same fate with second baseman Mesa throwing to Camacho. Giovannie Ayuyu kept Rock Steady's hopes alive when he singled, but not for long as centerfielder Ben Guerrero flied out to second, preserving D-9ers win.

MVA

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ing a contingent of people to enjoy our island atmosphere and walking here in our Commonwealth," he said. "I understand you just came from the walking Olympiad in Japan. I also recently returned from Japan and it's really cold there. So I hope our warm weather here has warmed you up a little."

Tenorio also wished Koala Wanderers an eventful trip to Tinian on Thursday, where they are scheduled to visit the atomic bomb pit memorial. He, however, asked them to consider including Rota in their itinerary the next time they visit the Commonwealth.

Koala Wanderers head Manfred Trettin, for his part, said that it's always a pleasure returning to Saipan and be amongst friends of the former Saipan Walking Association, Inc.

As a token of his fondness to the island and its people, Trettin gave MWA director Mario Espeleta a green and yellow-colored flag signifying the friendship between the two groups.

He also passed along mini versions of the "friendship flags" to members of MWA and MVA officials.

To top it off, Trettin, in behalf of the 40-member group, presented MWA with a T-shirt from IVV Olympiad held in Japan.

In turn, MWA presented Koala Wanderers an event T-shirt and postcards courtesy of Dr. Jack Hardy .

MWA president Jesus Guerrero, in his closing remarks, reaffirmed MWA's partnership with Koala Wanderers and said that the sister clubs will forever be bound by their commitment to promote public health through non-competitive walking.

In the afternoon, the Koala Wanderers, MWA members, and members of the community took part in the Saipan phase of the Koala Wanderers IVV Saipan and Tinian Walk.

Tomorrow, Koala Wanderers will hop into the ferry bound for Tinian for a jaunt around the island's historical and scenic spots beginning at the old airport.

The members of the club, who are here on a five-day visit, hail not only from Germany, but also from neighboring countries with German-speaking populations.

Also attending the luncheon were MWA vice president, MVA director, and Pacific Development, Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura, PDI general manager Gordon Marciano, MVA's Hiroko Tenorio, PDI's Hiroko Tajima, and MVA director and Fiesta Resort general manager B.K. Kim.

Fiesta Resort went out of its way to play host to the 40 Koala Wanderers as the Garapan landmark served them German food that included Galbi Chem, Boiled Sausage with Sauerkreaut, Seafood Victoria, among others.

DANDAN

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Hudkins and Taylor Knecht; Whispering Palms' John Auther, Neghar Rastguiy, Gabrielle Race, Colin Ramsey, Phalai Frink and Kenyon Schultz; William S. Reyes' Jasmine Umbay, Ethan and Spencer Dickinson, Almina Deleon Guerrero, Nathan Camacho, Christian Morales, and Alvina Palacios.

Dandan Elementary School's Joel Demapan and Anthony Deleon Guerrero; Saipan Community School's Xuan Jun Lu, Jin Pyo Jeon and Lydin Johnson; Kagman Elementary School's Miyuki Muna, Dion Deleon Guerrero and Carlos Aguon; Tanapag Elementary School's Mievanalyn Iguel and Juan Quitugua; and San Antonio Elementary School's Joseph Fejeran.

The Northern Marianas Athletics will name the top performers in the girls and boys' U8, U10, U12, U14, and U18 divisions after tabulating points gained by the medalists in the respective events they joined in.

BEVY

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nearest to the pin, most accurate drive, and longest drive.

This year's tournament will be held at the Larry Nelson-designed Coral Ocean Point Resort and will be open to the first 144 paid registrants. Proceeds of the tournament will be contributed to community charities.

Registration forms are available at Coral Ocean Point, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Marianas Resort. The tournament features six categories: Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors (age 55-and-over), and Ladies. Players in the Championship Flight must have 0-5 handicaps, while those in A Flight are 6-10 handicappers. The B Flight is for players with 11-17 handicap, while C Flight are for players with handicap above 17.

Winners (champion, first runner-up, and second runner-up) for the female golfers will be determined using the double peoria handicap system. First place winners of all flights will receive $500 and a trophy, second place finishers will receive $300 and a trophy, and third place winners will receive $200 and a trophy.

The tournament will start at 7am. The awards dinner ceremony and raffle will be held at Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside at 6pm.

Previously, HANMI has supported Crime Stoppers and other community causes with the proceeds of the tournament.

For more information about the tournament, contact HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament Committee members Ranjeet Rajebhosale at 287-9030 or Steve Jang at 483-6371. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	27	14	.659	-
Boston	22	16	.579	3 1/2
New York	21	17	.553	4 1/2
Tampa Bay	20	20	.500	6 1/2
Baltimore	16	22	.421	9 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	20	16	.556	-
Kansas City	20	18	.526	1
Minnesota	18	21	.462	3 1/2
Chicago	15	21	.417	5
Cleveland	14	25	.359	7 1/2

West Division

Texas	23	14	.622	-
Los Angeles	19	18	.514	4
Seattle	17	21	.447	6 1/2
Oakland	13	22	.371	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	20	16	.556	-
New York	21	17	.553	-
Atlanta	18	19	.486	2 1/2
Florida	18	20	.474	3
Washington	11	26	.297	9 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	24	14	.632	-
Chicago	21	15	.583	2
St. Louis	21	17	.553	3
Cincinnati	20	17	.541	3 1/2
Houston	17	19	.472	6
Pittsburgh	17	21	.447	7

West Division

Los Angeles	27	13	.675	-
San Francisco	19	18	.514	6 1/2
San Diego	16	22	.421	10
Colorado	15	22	.405	10 1/2
Arizona	14	23	.378	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 12, Washington 7
Colorado 5, Atlanta 1
Arizona at Florida, ppd., Rain
Milwaukee 8, St. Louis 4
L.A. Dodgers 3, N.Y. Mets 2, 11 innings
Toronto 3, Chicago White Sox 2
N.Y. Yankees 7, Minnesota 6
Tampa Bay 13, Oakland 4
L.A. Angels 10, Seattle 6

By The Associated Press

Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Department of Public Safety Director Jose T. King and Tita Dosalua are seen here crossing the finish line together during the Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run held last May 9 in the evening of a full moon.

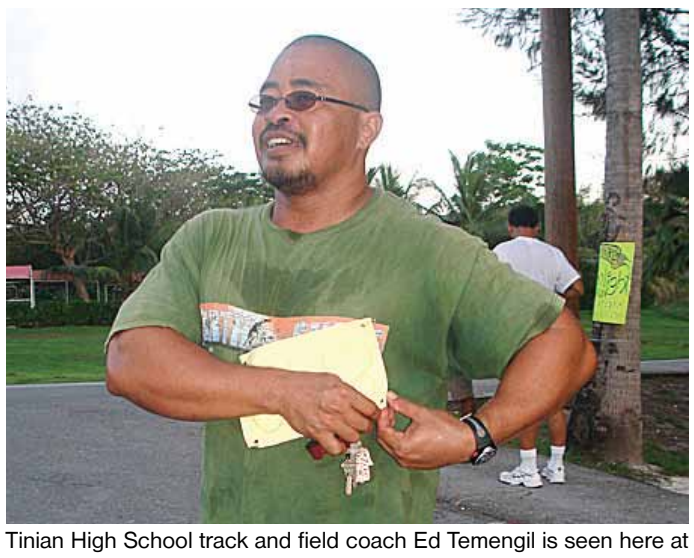
Fe Lumangles is seen here receiving her congratulatory lei from Lucy King as she crosses the finish line as the first place walker of the Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run.

Rajendra Rijal is seen here crossing the finish line as the second place runner of the Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run.

Kevan Clawson is seen here receiving help from his wife, Terri Clawson, Tinian Health Center's physician assistant. Clawson came in fifth overall in the walker's division.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider is seen here at the start of the Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run held last May 9. Hofschneider was a sponsor of the event, along with DFS Galleria, Pacific Trading Co., and King Law Office.

Volunteer nurses from Tinian Health Center were on call during the Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run.



Tinian High School track and field coach Ed Temengil is seen here at the start of the Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run held last May 9.

Juanita Mendiola is seen here at the Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run held last May 9 with the gubernatorial tandem of Juan "Pan" Guerrero and Rep. Joe Camacho.

Tinian High School Teen Talk volunteers Jesse Ray Borja, Hainy Borja, Raina Reyes, Edward Hofschneider, Alana Takasi, Becky Ann Evangelista, Alisha Shrestha, Marisa Untalan, and Sherry Dosalua all strike a pose during the Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run held last May 9.

Volunteers from Tinian High School Samantha Wedding, Alana Takasi, Emiliana Manglona, and chaperone Valerie Dela Cruz smile for the camera.

Juan "Pan" Guerrero is seen here assisted by volunteer Raina Reyes at the Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run held last May 9.

Bartlett leads Rays over A's for 4th straight win

Jason Bartlett drove in a career-high five runs and Tampa Bay beat struggling Oakland 13-4 on Monday night for a season-best four-game winning streak. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

X-Terminators slip past host Shirley's

Rocyl Ritual made crucial steals and baskets to lift Advanced X-Terminators to a 96-92 victory against Shirley's in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League last Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court. **26**

Twin victories for D-9ers in BSML

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

D-9ers showed toughness in close games to pull off twin victories in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

D-9ers' most recent win was last Friday, as they slipped past Young Guns, 7-6, behind the heroics of second baseman Ben Mesa.

Mesa made an RBI that tied the game and then scored the winning run at the top of the ninth inning.

Young Guns played defense at the top of the ninth and were up by one, 6-5.

Mesa, who batted third in the ninth inning, started his heroics with a single that drove leadoff batter Pat Camacho home and tied the game at 6-all

With two outs and Chad Atalig at bat, Mesa sprinted to home plate to give D-9ers the lead, 7-6.

D-9ers defense kept the victory after throwing out Young Guns' first three batters at the bottom of the ninth inning. Tim Mafnas struck out leadoff batter Harry Nakamura and the next two batters flied out.

Mesa finished 4-for-5 at bat and had two RBIs and one run.

D-9ers played the first of their back-to-back games last week against Rock Steady and stunned the defending champion

See TWIN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A D-9ers batter waits for the pitch during their game against Rock Steady last week in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Bevy of hole-in-one prizes announced

Not one, but two hole-in-prizes worth $20,000 each, a new Mazda 3i and $5,000 cash, and a roundtrip ticket to Hawaii or Asia all await contenders of this Saturday's 8th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament.

Eager golfers are racing to meet the early bird registration deadline tomorrow, May 21, and enter the running for one of the most highly anticipated annual golf tournaments in the Northern Mariana Islands. The four prizes mentioned are all hole-in-one winnings and are just the beginning of the list of available winnings.

"Through the generous support of our sponsors, HANMI is again able to offer island golfers a number of attractive cash and in-kind prizes at this year's tournament," said HANMI vice chairman Nick Nishikawa. "We look forward to an exciting tournament and to congratulating some happy winners."

Early bird tournament fee is $90 for payments by May 21. The fee includes green fee, prizes, and the awards banquet. The fee increases to $110 on May 22. For an additional $20, players may also compete for

See BEVY on Page 26

MVA, MWA welcome back Koala Wanderers

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Koala Wanderers International Club of Germany were welcomed by officials of the Marianas Visitors Authority and a local walking group with a special luncheon yesterday at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Claret Restaurant.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio thanked Koala Wanderers for visiting the CNMI for a third time and hopes they enjoy the islands' warm weather and hospitality.

"Since signing the agreement with SAIWAI (former name of MWA) three years ago, your group has been visiting our Commonwealth and bring-

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MARK RABAGO

Koala Wanderers International Club of Germany head Manfred Trettin, second from right, is presented an event T-shirt by Marianas Walking Association director Mario Espeleta, third right, and postcards by Dr. Jack Hardy, right. Also in photo are MWA vice president Yoichi Matsumura and president Jesus Guerrero, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

Dandan students triumph in All Schools

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Seven student-athletes in the elementary division of the 2008 All Schools Track and Field Championships went home with two gold medals, making them candidates for top athletes awards in three age groups.

Leading the list were three students from Dandan Elementary School, namely Jerimo Okaruru, Janelle Reyes, and Jeremy Lizama.

Okaruru ruled the boys' U8 200m and 400m runs; Reyes dominated the girls' U8 100m and 200m races; and Lizama triumphed in the boys' U12 200m and 400m runs

Joining the Tottots' student-athletes in the double gold medalists club were Saipan International School's Julia Ishikawa and Angelo Jones, Saipan Community School's Tammy Ackerman, and Brilliant Star's Jillian Villagomez.

Jones ruled the 1,500m and 3,000m races in the boys' U12 division. He timed in at 14 minutes 17.2 seconds in the 3,000m run to beat Whispering Palms' Danny Auther (15:04.6) and teammate Hunter Jewell (15:09.6). In the 1,500 run, Jones clocked in at 7:03.2 to outrace seven other participants.

Ishikawa prevailed in the girls' U8 1,500 and 800m races; Ackerman won in the girls' U10 long jump and 400m run; and Villagomez topped the girls' U8 400m race and softball throw.

Other gold medalists in the All Schools meet held last Friday and Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex were Saipan International School's A.J.

See DANDAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the girls' U8 200m run sprint from the starting line during Day 2 of the 2009 All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sport Complex.